
STORY BY
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ART BY
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Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
1
Episode 1 Legend of the Golden Witch


.....
NAN-
JOU...
...HOW MUCH LONGER DO I HAVE TO LIVE?
.....
...
HMPH.
NOT LONG, THEN...
.....
.....
COME TO ME AGAIN...
BUT THIS CANNOT BE MY DEATH...
I WILL NOT ALLOW DEATH TO CLAIM ME UNTIL I HAVE SEEN HER SMILE ONCE AGAIN!!
PARIN (SMASH)
COME TO ME AND SMILE...!!

# Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY

## Episode 1 Legend of the Golden Witch

### Chapter 1: Rokkenjima

BEA-
TRICE
!!!

# Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY

## Episode 1
Legend of the Golden Witch

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10:00 A.M., OCTOBER 4TH, 1986




IT'S A SMALL ISLAND NO MORE THAN SIX MILES ACROSS, OWNED BY THE WEALTHY USHIROMIYA FAMILY.
THE TRADITIONAL ANNUAL FAMILY GATHERING IS NEARLY UPON US.
ZAZAZAZAZA (ZZSHHH)
AND IT IS FOR THIS PURPOSE THAT THE TEN OF US ENJOY OUR PLEASANT CRUISE...


IS IT JUST ME, OR ARE WE GOING DANGEROUSLY FAST?
...WAI—
THIS IS TOO FAST!
ZAZA
ZAZAZAZAZA (SSHHH)
OUR PLEASANT...
.....
ZAZAZA
I'M GONNA FALL OVER
KRRR


...I NEVER ACTUALLY DREAMED THAT MY FIRST FAMILY GATHERING IN SIX YEARS WOULD INVOLVE A BAPTISM...
ZAZA (FSHH)
FOR PERSONAL REASONS, I'VE BEEN LARGELY ESTRANGED FROM THE REST OF THE FAMILY FOR SOME TIME.
GESOOO (URGH)
BATTLER USHIROMIYA
BWA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
SHUT UP, JES-SICA!
ZAZAZAA (FSHHH)
CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY, BATTLER! THE CAPTAIN BUMPED DOWN THE SPEED JUST FOR YOU!
SIX YEARS LATER, YOU'RE ABOUT TWICE THE SIZE YOU USED TO BE, BUT AS HELPLESS AS EVER ON A MOVING VEHICLE!
STILL, YOU SHOULD SEE YOURSELF! HEE-HEE-HA-HA-HA!!


AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD MAN? PATHETIC!
JESSICA USHIROMIYA
THIS GIRL WHO SEEMS ENTIRELY UNSUITED TO HER ROLE AS THE LOFTY DAUGHTER OF A PROUD AND POWERFUL FAMILY IS JESSICA.
PFFF!
I GUESS BOTH YOUR COURAGE AND YOUR TWIG AND BERRIES ARE THE SAME SIZE THEY WERE WHEN YOU WERE A KID!
SHE'S MY COUSIN, BORN THE SAME YEAR AS ME.
DAMN YOU, JESSICA...
SO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S A GROWN-UP NOW...?


GABAA (LUROD)
HOW ABOUT I PERFORM A LITTLE EXAMI-NATION...
...TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU'VE GROWN?
...NH!!
DAMMIT! YOU BRUSHED MY CHEST.
MYAA (CAW!)
MYAA
I MISCALCULATED HOW MUCH YOUR REACH WOULD HAVE GROWN IN SIX YEARS...!


SASU (RUB)
SASU
CHOKON (PLOP)
UUU.
BATTLER WIPED OUT.
MARIA USHIROMIYA
HEY, MARIA.
PON
PON (PAT)
YOU'RE RIGHT... BATTLER'S ALL WIPED OUT.
THANKS FOR CARING, KID.
UUU.
MARIA'S ANOTHER COUSIN I HAVEN'T SEEN IN SIX YEARS. SHE'S AN ADORABLE LITTLE SWEETHEART!


HERE WE GO! PRINCESS GETS A PIGGYBACK RIDE!
TOM (PLOP)
UUU!!
BATTLER, BATTLER!! UUU, UUU!!
YOU SAID IT!
MARIA, MARIA!! UUU, UUU!!
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GROW UP INTO A TOM-BOY LIKE JESSICA, MARIA!
YOU'LL BE A GRACEFUL LADY AND LET ME TOUCH YOUR BOOBS WHEN-EVER I WANT! GOT THAT? IT'S A PROMISE!
UUU! I'LL LET YOU! I PROMISE!
UUUU!!


MARIA ALWAYS KEEPS PROMISES! UUUU!
UUU! HE CAN TOUCH THEM! I PROMISED!
AND I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO MAKE PROMISES LIKE THAT, MARIA! THE DEAL'S OFF!
YOU SICK BASTARD!
DON'T FILL HER HEAD WITH THAT NONSENSE! YOU KNOW MARIA WILL TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!
UU?
DON'T TRY TO TURN THIS INTO A HEART-WARMING MOMENT!
HORORI (DRIP)
ホロリ!!
MARIA'S SUCH A SWEET, TRUSTING GIRL... HER FUTURE HUSBAND'S A VERY LUCKY MAN.
THAT'S RIGHT, MARIA-CHAN.
UUU... NO MORE PROMISE ...?


YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE PROMISES LIKE THAT.
AND DON'T TEASE HER WITH THAT NONSENSE, BATTLER-KUN.
GEORGE USHIROMIYA


GEORGE-ANIKI!
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW GEORGE-NIISAN'S EXAMPLE AND BE MORE OF AN INTELLECTUAL.
ME?


GEORGE IS AN OLDER COUSIN. VERY SMART, WITH A TOP-CLASS EDUCATION AND A GOOD HEAD FOR BUSINESS.
HA! HA HA.
OH, I'M NOT THAT SPECIAL.
HE'S A FAR CRY FROM ME, A GUY WITH NO FUTURE AND NO DREAMS.
YOU AND I SHOULD TRY TO BOTTLE SOME OF ANIKI'S MAGIC LATER, JESSICA.
SHUT THE HELL UP!
YEAH, YEAH.
WHAAAT? WERE YOU JUST SUBTLY INSULTING ME?
ZAZAA (FSSHH)
ZAN...
WITH BATTLER-KUN AROUND, IT FINALLY FEELS LIKE WE'VE GOT ALL THE COUSINS TOGETHER!
NICE AND LIVELY.
HE PROVIDES THAT EXTRA MEASURE OF COMEDY.
UUU! THIS YEAR WILL BE THE MOST FUN OF ALL! UUU!
HEE HEE!
I AGREE WITH YOU THERE!


DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
IT'S LIKE THAT SIX-YEAR GAP NEVER HAPPENED.
HAH A, WHEN YOU DRY OUT JELLYFISH, THEY TURN INTO MUSHROOMS
THIS KIND OF CONTACT WITH DISTANT FAMILY MEMBERS IS DIFFERENT FROM INTERACTING WITH FRIENDS.
ALSO, BOILING CHOP STICKS TURNS THEM INTO BAMBOO SHOOTS
UUU! BATTLER, I SEE THE DOCK! I SEE THE DOCK!
OHH, WHERE, WHERE?
ALL IN ALL...
...I KINDA LIKE IT.
WHAT'S WRONG, MARIA?
.....
ZAZA GASHO
THIS ISLAND HASN'T CHANGED A BIT IN SIX YEARS!


IT'S GONE.
UUU...
...HMM?
I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR IT. WHAT'S MISSING?
ZAZÁ (PSHH)
WHAT'S WRONG, MARIA? DID YOU LOSE SOME-THING?
.....?
ZAAA
IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE!!
UUU!! UUU, UUU!!


YEAH, THERE WAS. I REMEMBER IT BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST LAND-MARK YOU SAW ON THE ISLAND.
ZAZAA
ZAZAA
.....WAIT...
YES, I REMEMBER TOO. THE ISLAND'S SHINTO SHRINE AND THE TORII ARCHWAY OVER IT.
IT'S NOT THERE ANYMORE... I'M PRETTY SURE I SAW IT LAST YEAR...
ZAZA
ZAAA
WASN'T THERE... A LITTLE TORII GATE OVER THAT SMALL OUT-CROPPING THERE...?


IT MUST HAVE DISAPPEARED THIS SUMMER. I'M ALSO GUESSING THE WAVES MUST HAVE KNOCKED IT INTO THE WATER...
PROBABLY GOT SWEPT AWAY BY WAVES OR SOMETHING, RIGHT? MAYBE IT HAD BEEN WEAKENED BY EXPOSURE TO THE ELEMENTS.
GONE!! GONE!!
UUU, UUU!!
KUMASAWA-BAA CHAN... DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
ZARI (SWISH)
HO HO HO...
ZAZA (FSHHH)
INDEED...
FAMILY SERVANT CHIYO KUMASAWA
I WISH IT HAD BEEN JUST THAT...


TO PIECES...
AN OMEN OF DISASTER ...
MMM...


DISAS-
TER.
DISAS-
TER.
DISAS-
TER.
DISAS-
TER.
DISAS-
TER.
DISAS-
TER.
DISAS-
TER.


DON'T WORRY, MARIA-CHAN. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
DISAS-TER.
S-STOP IT, KUMASAWA-SAN. MARIA'S AT THE AGE WHERE SHE TAKES JOKES LIKE THAT SERIOUSLY.
DISAS-TER.
TAKE IT EASY, MARIA.
IF YOU KEEP TALKING THAT WAY, A REAL DISASTER WILL STRIKE. YOU WANT THAT TO HAPPEN?
DISAS-TER.
DISAS-TER.
DISAS-TER.


DISAS-
TER...
...
COMES.
!?


HYUAAAAAAA (PWOOOSH)
UUU...
HE'S RIGHT. THAT TYPHOON WILL BE OVER BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MARIA-CHAN. THE WEATHER MIGHT GET A LITTLE ROUGH TONIGHT, BUT IT'LL BE SUNNY AGAIN TOMORROW.
UUU.
UUU!!!
UUU, UUU, UUU!!
DISAS-TER...
...IS COMING ...!?
THAT REMINDS ME...THE NEWS SAID A TYPHOON WAS ON THE WAY...


UUU, UUU!!
UUU!! UUU!!!
DISAS-TER COM-ING!!
DISAS-TER!!
ZAAA (FSHH)
MARIA... WHAT HAS YOU FEELING SO DESPER-ATE...?
ZAZA
UUU!!
UUUU!!
...HO-HO-HO...
DO ANY OF YOU BELIEVE IN BEING ATTUNED TO THE SPIRITS...?


HUH?
SOME SAY...THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS THE ABILITY TO SENSE THE PRESENCE OF GHOSTS...
...BUT THAT THIS AFFINITY GRADUALLY FADES WITH AGE
MARIA-SAMA IS THE YOUNGEST OF THE FAMILY HERE.
PERHAPS SHE CAN FEEL SOMETHING...
...THAT THE REST OF US ARE TOO OLD AND DULLED TO SENSE...?


ZAZAAN (FSHH)
ZAZA (FSHHH)
ZAZA
ZAN!
BATA (FLAP)
BATA
BATA
WYUUUU (WHOOSH)
...AFTER ALL, IT IS SAID THAT YEARS AGO...
...A WITCH LIVED ON ROKKEN-JIMA...


KUMA-SAWA-SAN.
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THIS HERE.


...HO-HO-HO, HOW SILLY OF ME...


DID SHE JUST SAY SOMETHING... ABOUT A WITCH...?
AND DOES JESSICA KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT...?
A WITCH ...?
BUT THE COUNTDOWN HAD ALREADY BEGUN.
TO A NEVER-ENDING NIGHTMARE THAT AWAITED ON THIS ISLAND.
THE PRELUDE TO AN ETERNITY OF TORTURE.
WITCH.
DISASTER.
KEE HEE.


Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch


ZAZA (FSHH)
ZAZAN
10:30 A.M., OCTOBER 4TH
AAAH, FINALLY! BACK ON SOLID GROUND!
WELL, SOMEONE MADE SURE OUR TRIP WAS LIVELY...
UUU!!


わしわし
WASHI
WASHI (RUB)
UUUU!!
GIRLS ARE ALWAYS CUTER WHEN THEY'RE SMILING.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT.
UUU!!
ODO
NICE TO SEE YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD AGAIN, MARIA.
GEORGE-ONII-CHAN NEVER LIES!
GEORGE-ONIICHAN SAID IT WAS GONNA BE OKAY! UUU!


ZAWA
ZAWA (SWISH)
ZAZA
ZA (FSHHH)
...HUH?
ODO
QUIT WASTIN' TIME, OR WE'LL LEAVE ALL YOU KIDS BEHIND.
HEY!
COMING!


.....
NO... IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S OFF ABOUT THE ISLAND...
DID YOU LEAVE SOMETHING ON THE BOAT, BATTLER-KUN?
WHAT'S WRONG ..?
IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING...
... OH.
UUU! YOU'RE A COPYCAT, BATTLER!! COPY-CAT!!
WHAT'S THIS, ARE YOU ACTING LIKE MARIA NOW? "UUU, GONE, IT'S GONE!"
.....IT'S THE SEA-GULLS.

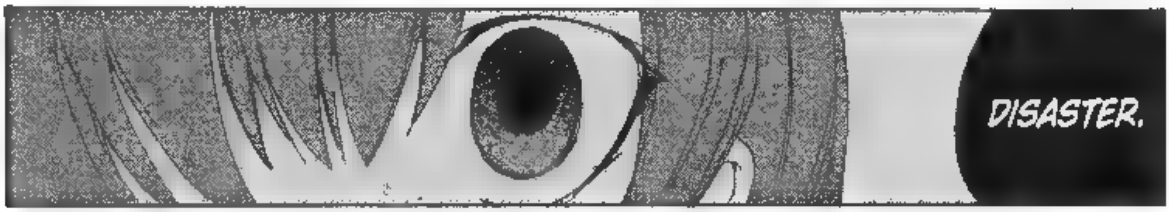
# Chapter 2:
# The Legend of the Witch







ZAA (FSHH)
WHAT IS IT ABOUT TODAY...
...THAT'S MADE ALL OF THEM COMPLETELY DISAPPEAR...?


DISASTER.


UU? WHY ARE THERE NO SEAGULLS?
I GUESS THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL GATHERING SOMEWHERE ELSE TODAY?
YOU'RE RIGHT, BATTLER.
THE PLACE IS USUALLY CRAWLING WITH SEA-GULLS, BUT THERE ISN'T A SINGLE ONE HERE...
.....


JESSICA-ONEE-CHAN TURNED THEM INTO YAKI-TORI! UUU!!
NO, SHE DIDN'T, MARIA-CHAN.
HOW D-D-DARE YOU SUG-GEST SUCH A THING!! YOU'RE GIVING MARIA THE WRONG IDEA!!
OR MAYBE JESSICA ALREADY COOKED AND ATE THEM ALL!
UUU!!?


WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A STORM TONIGHT...
...SO THEY'VE PROBABLY ALL MOVED ON TO A SAFER LOCATION.
BIRDS ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE WEATHER AND ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.


ACK...
GEORGE-ONIICHAN'S TELLING THE TRUTH?
BAT-TLER LIED?
...UUU? NOT YAKI-TORI?

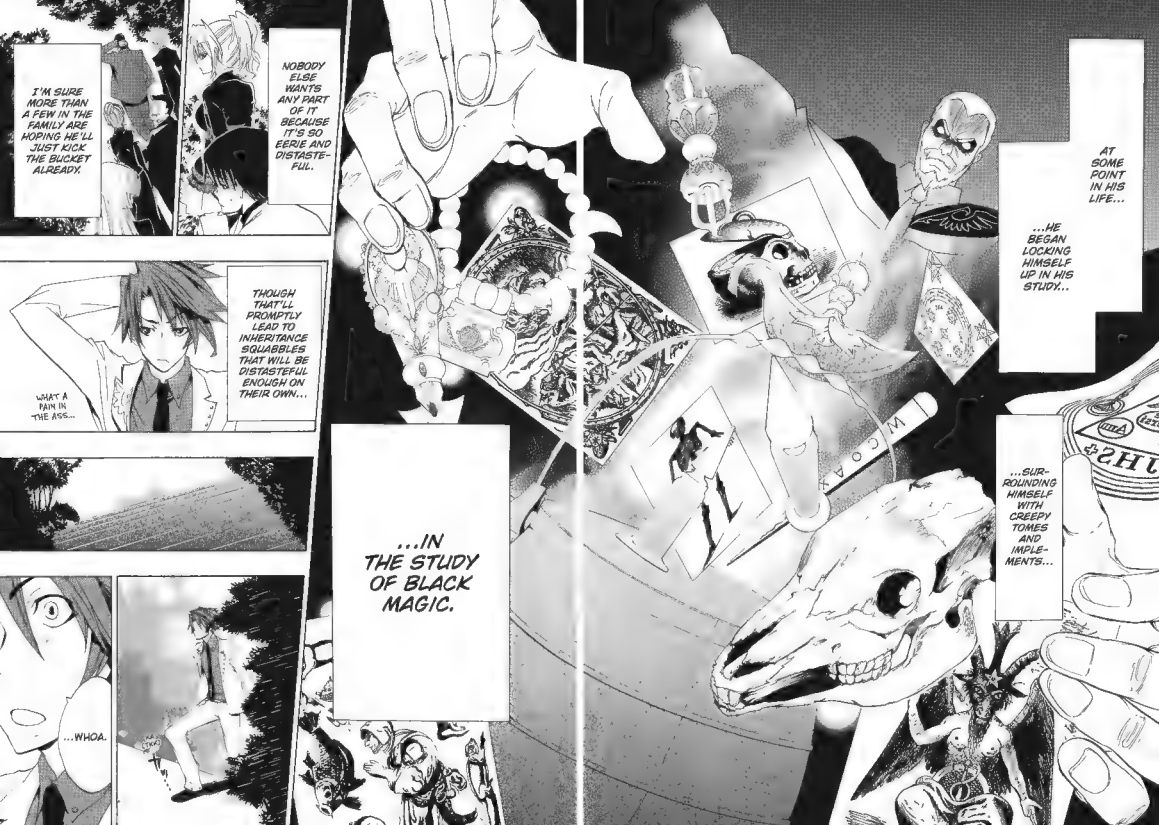

YEAH! GEORGE-ANIKI'S TELLING THE TRUTH!!
THEY'RE JUST GONE BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO BE STORMY TONIGHT!
EXACTLY. ONCE IT GETS SUNNY AGAIN, THEY'LL BE BACK HERE, CAWING AND RAISING A FUSS LIKE ALWAYS.
HYUA (FWOOSH)
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT...
HYUAAAA~
...BY THE WAY, JESSICA-CHAN...


PARTICU-
LARLY FOR A
MAN WHO'S
BEEN TOLD HE
HAS THREE
MONTHS TO
LIVE FOR THE
PAST YEAR.
HE'S AS
LIVELY AND
HEALTHY
AS EVER.
ZAKU
...HOW IS
GRAND-
FATHER'S
CONDITION
THESE
DAYS?


...BUT HIS
BODY CAN'T
KEEP UP ITS
END OF THE
BARGAIN
FOREVER...
...WELL, NO
ONE EVER
ACCUSED
GRAND-
FATHER
OF BEING
WEAK
WILLED...


HE'S THE
ONE WHO
BOUGHT
ROKKEN-
JIMA,
WHERE
HE MAKES
HIS HOME.
AFTER THE
GREAT KANTO
EARTHQUAKE
BROUGHT THE
USHIROMIYA
CLAN TO RUIN
IN 1923, HE
USED HIS
CONSIDERABLE
TALENT AND
ASTONISH-
INGLY GOOD
LUCK TO
REVIVE THE
FAMILY'S
FORTUNES.
WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT OUR
GRAND-
FATHER—THE
HEAD OF THE
USHIROMIYA
FAMILY.
ZAKU
WE'LL
HAVE TO BE
VERY GENTLE
WITH HIM...


HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO CARE FOR SOMEONE WHO LOCKS HIMSELF IN HIS STUDY ALL DAY LONG?
HE'S ALWAYS IN A TEMPER, AND HE'S CUTTING OFF TIES WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY!
DID YOU KNOW THE ONLY PEOPLE HE OPENS HIS HEART TO THESE DAYS ARE A FEW OF THE SERVANTS?
HAH!
BE GENTLE WITH GRANDFATHER?
I WISH HE WOULD CHILL OUT WITH HIS CREEPY HOBBIES TOO.
I JUST CAN'T HANDLE THE ONES THAT INVOLVE ALL THOSE WAFTING ODORS.
... HOBBIES ...?
IS HE STILL DOING THAT STUFF?
...THAT'S RIGHT. OUR GRANDFATHER HAS SOME... PECULIAR TASTES.


I'M SURE MORE THAN A FEW IN THE FAMILY ARE HOPING HE'LL JUST KICK THE BUCKET ALREADY.
NOBODY ELSE WANTS ANY PART OF IT BECAUSE IT'S SO EERIE AND DISTASTEFUL.
THOUGH THAT'LL PROMPTLY LEAD TO INHERITANCE SQUABBLES THAT WILL BE DISTASTEFUL ENOUGH ON THEIR OWN...
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS...
...IN THE STUDY OF BLACK MAGIC.
...WHOA.
AT SOME POINT IN HIS LIFE...
...HE BEGAN LOCKING HIMSELF UP IN HIS STUDY...
...SURROUNDING HIMSELF WITH CREEPY TOMES AND IMPLEMENTS...


THERE IT IS, AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER...
THE FAMILY'S PRIZED ROSE GARDEN!!

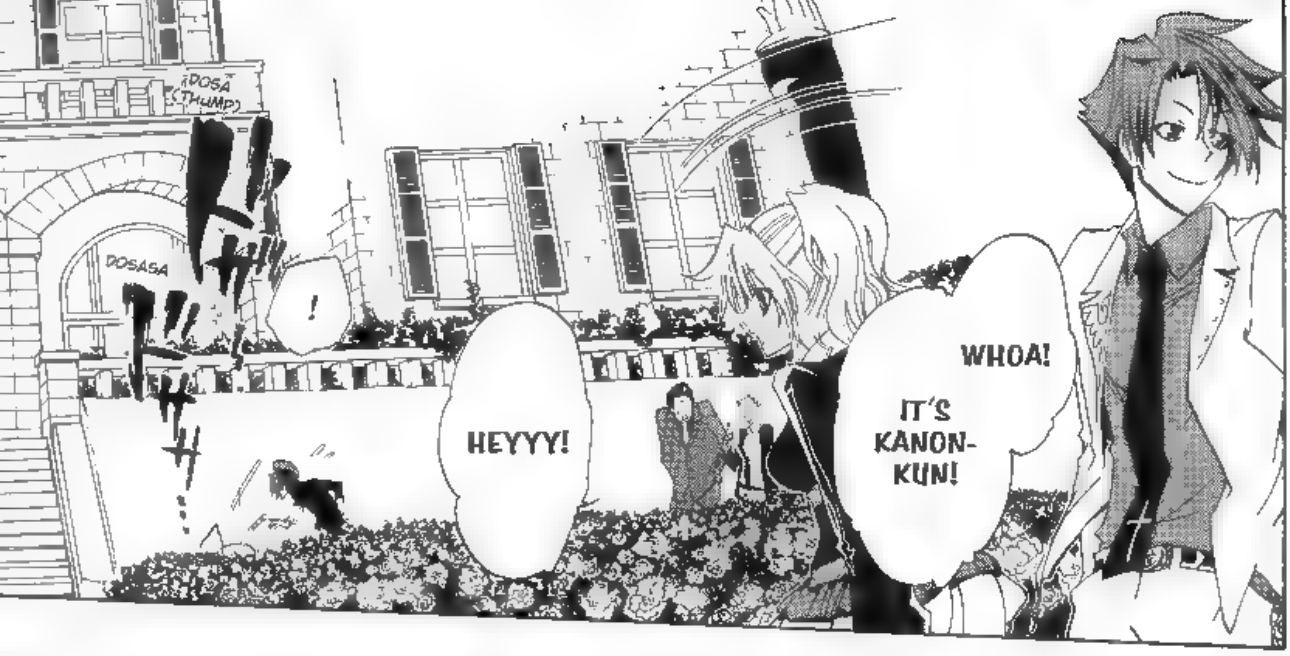

IT'S A STUNNING SIGHT, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE IT...!
IT MAKES ALL THE FATIGUE OF THE TRIP MELT AWAY...!
YEAH, I FORGOT ABOUT THIS GARDEN!
IS IT ME, OR IS IT EVEN BETTER THAN IT WAS SIX YEARS AGO!?
LOOK AT ALL THE BEAUTIFUL ROSES, MARIA-CHAN.
UU, BEAUTIFUL ROSES!
SUN
SUN (SNIFF)
HMMM...
WHAT A RICH FRAGRANCE. THE PERFECT ACCOMPANIMENT TO AN ELEGANT MAN SUCH AS MYSELF.
UUU. WHAT A RICH FRAGRANCE. THE PERFECT COMPANY TO AN ELEPHANT MAN SUCH AS MYSELF.
HA HA HA HA.
IT'S LIKE ALL OF MY WORRIES ABOUT COMING HERE HAVE BEEN LIFTED OFF MY BACK.


...BUT FRETTING OVER THINGS AIN'T MY STYLE. THIS IS A NICE CHANGE OF PACE.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S TOTALLY BLOCKED EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED ON THE SHIP OUT OF MY MIND...
THE SEA-GULLS ...
DISAS-TER.
LONG, LONG AGO...


UUU...
THERE'S ONE ROSE...
...THAT'S WEIRD...
UUU... GEORGE-ONII-CHAN.
WHAT'S UP, MARIA?
HMM?
SU (SSK)


GOSO (RUSTLE)
IN THAT CASE ...
THE POOR THING.
UUU ...
YOU'RE RIGHT... IT'S THE ONLY ONE THAT'S WILTING.


YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THIS ROSE UNTIL WE LEAVE THE ISLAND. IT'LL BE EASY TO SPOT THIS WAY, SEE?
WELL, WELL. ISN'T THAT MUCH CUTER?
UUU!
KYU (TIE)
HEE HEE!
SO FOCUSED ON IT, SHE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR MY BRILLIANT SUGGESTION.
MA-RIA'S ...
ROSE.
MA-RIA'S...
GOOD IDEA! HOW ABOUT "MADE IN☆ HEAVEN"?
WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND GIVE YOUR ROSE A NAME?
UUU...
MARIA'S ...
...ROSE.


DOSASA
(THUMP)
DOSASA
!
HEYYY!
WHOA!
IT'S KANON-KUN!


URGH
GUGL (STRAIN)
...I'LL CLEAN IT UP...AT ONCE...
I'M SORRY TO HAVE PUT ON THIS DREADFUL DISPLAY...


HEY, YOU OKAY?
S-SORRY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOUTED LIKE THAT...!
.....

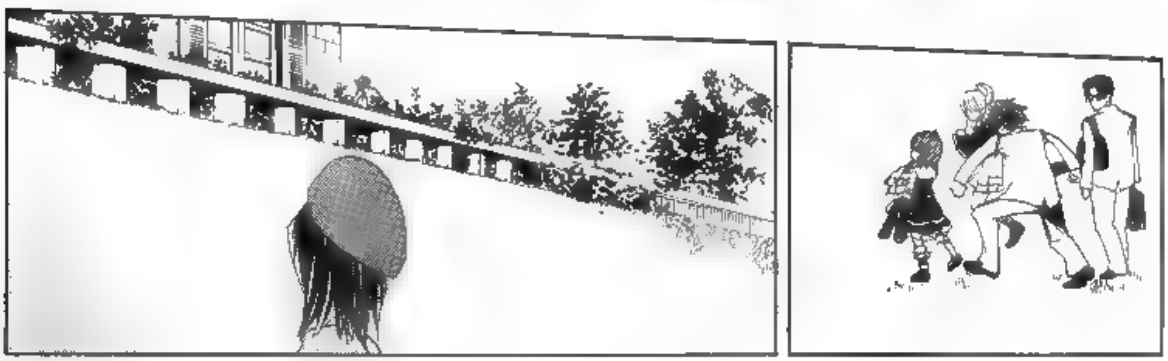

YOU ALL RIGHT? I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.
HYOI (ZIP)
AH...!
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT. I'LL HANDLE IT...
DON'T SWEAT IT! YOU'D BE SURPRISED TO LEARN HOW FIT I AM!
THIS IS WHERE I CAN TRULY SHINE!


DOSA
DOSA (THUD)
IT'S NO WONDER THESE ARE GIVING YOU TROUBLE, WITH THOSE SPINDLY ARMS OF YOURS.
BAT-TLER ...
...ALLOW ME TO INTRO-DUCE OUR SERVANT, KANON-KUN.
I SEE!
I'M BATTLER! NICE TO MEET YA.
HE'S BEEN WORKING HERE FOR THREE YEARS.
PAN (PAT)
ぽんぽん!
(PAN)
THERE WE GO!
...IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
...I'M KANON, THE SERVANT...
FAMILY SERVANT KANON


WE LOOK ABOUT THE SAME AGE! JUST CALL ME BATTLER, YEAH?
.....
BUT...WE... ARE THE FURNITURE.
...I APPRE-CIATE THE SENTIMENT, BATTLER-SAMA.
KANON-KUN'S PRETTY SHY AND HAS TROUBLE BEING SOCIABLE WITH OTHERS...
...BUT HE'S REALLY NICE AT HEART...!
UHH, DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA, BATTLER.
WOW... NOT EASY TO GET ALONG WITH, IS HE...?
PEKO (BOW)
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...I MUST GET BACK TO WORK...
UH...
HEY!


HEY! BATTLER!
MAKE SURE TO TAKE OUR LUGGAGE TO THE GUEST-HOUSE!
...!!
THANKS, BATTLER-KUN! I KNEW THOSE MUSCLES WOULD COME IN HANDY!
BOSUN (FLUMP)
THE REST OF US PARENTS ARE GOING INSIDE TO SAY HELLO... HERE YOU GO!
WHAT'S UP?


UUU! MARIA WILL HELP!
SHALL WE TAKE THESE TO THE GUEST-HOUSE?
I'LL HELP, BATTLER-KUN.
AAAAH, I HATE THAT DIRTY OLD BAS-TARD!!




.....I WISH I COULD...
.....
GU (SQUEEZE)
ZAWAA (WHOOSH)
ああ...



THIS IS QUITE THE FANCY BUILDING THAT'S BEEN CONSTRUCTED SINCE THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE...
SO THIS IS THE GUEST-HOUSE, HUH...?
LOTS OF STUFF CAN CHANGE IN SIX YEARS.
UUU! MAGICAL BERN-CHAN!
REALLY MAKES THE PASSAGE OF TIME HIT HOME...
HEY, ARE YOU GONNA GET MARRIED OR ANY-THING?
...HUH!?
TRUE. YOU'VE GOT TITS NOW.
MARIA'S GROWING LIKE A WEED.
ALL GROWN UP...
AND ANIKI'S AN ADULT NOW!


YOU'RE A GROWN MAN. SURELY THERE MUST BE A WOMAN OR TWO YOU'VE CONSIDERED MARRYING.
WHY... WHY WOULD I BE CONSIDERING TWO AT ONCE? THAT'S SILLY... HA... HA-HA!
HMM? SO THAT MEANS THERE'S ONE? WHAT ARE YOU PLOTTING?
HEH HEH HEH...
NOTHING! YOU'RE GETTING THE WRONG IDEA, BATTLER-KUN...
PARDON ME...
LUNCH HAS BEEN PREPARED...
SHAN-NON!
COME ON IN! YOU REMEMBER BATTLER, DON'T YOU?
KACHA (CLICK)
Y-YES...
PARDON ME.


IT IS G-GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BATTLER-SAMA.
FAMILY SERVANT SHANNON
OHHH!?
IS THAT REALLY YOU, SHANNON-CHAN?
WOW, YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL NOW!
Y-YOU ARE TOO KIND...
YOU'RE LOOKING WELL, GEORGE-SAMA...
I AM, THANKS.
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SHANNON-CHAN.


REMEMBER KANON-KUN OUTSIDE? HE'S HER LITTLE BROTHER.
HER BROTH-ER?
SO YOU MET MY BROTHER? ...I HOPE HE WASN'T RUDE TO YOU.
HE WAS THE SAME HE ALWAYS IS. I JUST WISH HE COULD BE A BIT FRIEND-LIER.
BUT HEY, EVERYONE GOES THROUGH THEIR SULLEN YEARS! IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME!
HO (WHEW)
SPEAK-ING OF GROW-ING UP...
KAAA (BLUSH)
AH...
POYON (JIGGLE)
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THE CHARMS OF A YOUNG WOMAN HAVE GONE STRAIGHT TO YOUR CHEST, SHANNON-CHAN.
...UH...
MAYBE I SHOULD CONDUCT A LITTLE EXAMINATION AND FIND OUT IF YOURS ARE BIGGER THAN JESSICA'S, YEAH?


WHA...
KYUU (BLUSH)
WHAT KIND OF REAC-TION IS THAT!!?


YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? IF YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING, I'LL MAKE GOOD ON MY THREAT! I WILL ACTUALLY FEEL YOU UP!!
WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY SLAP ME!? WOULDN'T YOU HIT ME!? I'M NOT DOING THIS EXPECTING THAT I'LL GET TO FONDLE YOUR BREASTS! I'M ACTING SILLY IN THE HOPES THAT YOU'LL REACT AND TELL ME OFF! IT'S A JOKEY FORM OF COMMUNICATION!
BUT HEY, I WON'T COMPLAIN IF I GET A FREE BOOB GRAB OUT OF THE DEAL! HYA-HYA-HYA...

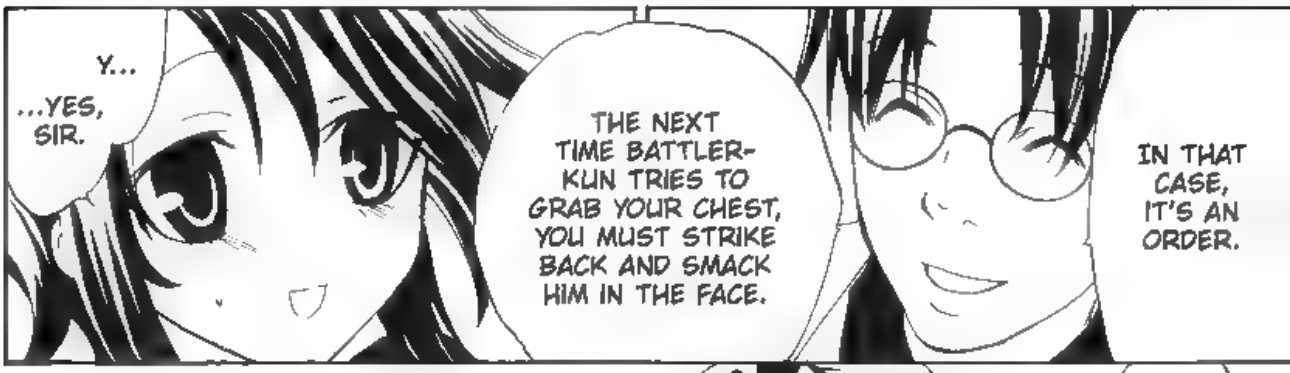

WH-WHY ARE YOU THANK-ING ME!?
.....WHEW... THANKS, JESSI-CA...


I...
...I WOULDN'T DARE...!
COME ON, SHANNON-CHAN! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RESIST! IF A LECHER TRIES TO FONDLE YOU, JUST SMACK HIM RIGHT IN THE FACE AS HARD AS YOU CAN!!


BAGYAAN! KA-RUNCH!


I'M GONNA TOUCH YOUR BOOOOBS!!!
DOKUN (BADUM)
DOKUN
DOKUN


BATTLER-SAMA IS AN EXALTED GUEST IN THE HOUSE...
AND... WE'RE ONLY... FURNI-TURE...
OWAAAH! SUCH SELF-SACRI-FICE! TEN YEARS AS A MAID MUST REALLY MOLD YOUR WAY OF THINK-ING!
STILL, YOU CAN'T DO THIS! NEXT TIME JUST SLAP ME! OTHERWISE THERE'S NO PUNCH LINE TO THE JOKE! DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING!
I CANNOT FULFILL YOUR REQUEST. I AM FURNI-TURE.
UU, BATTLER'S WEIRD...

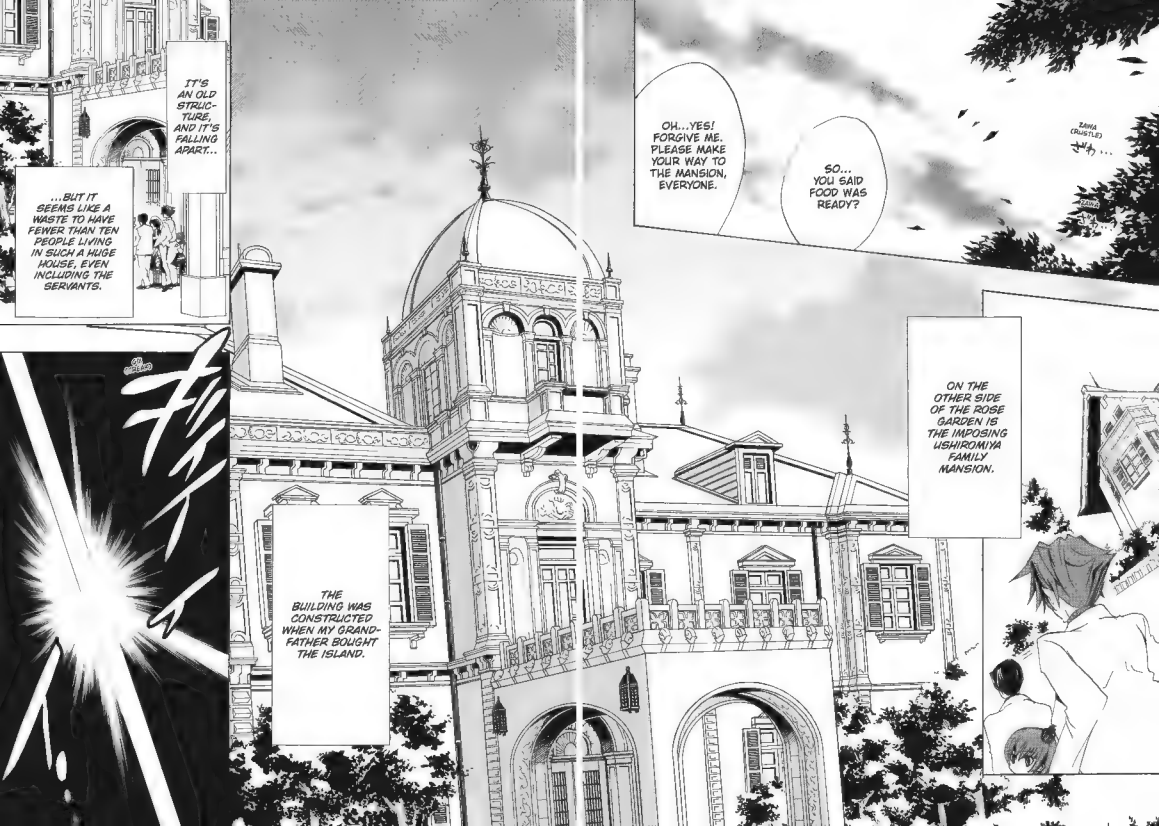

IN THAT CASE, IT'S AN ORDER.
THE NEXT TIME BATTLER-KUN TRIES TO GRAB YOUR CHEST, YOU MUST STRIKE BACK AND SMACK HIM IN THE FACE.
Y... ...YES, SIR.




KAHA KAHA KAHA
We'll see you next week.
UUU, BERN-CHAN'S SHOW IS OVER...


I HEAR AND OBEY...
PLEASE CONSIDER YOURSELF FORE-WARNED, BATTLER-SAMA.

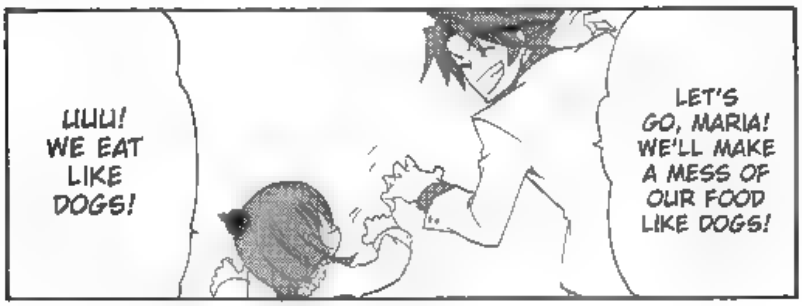

—We bring you a daytime news update.
Menacing and slow-moving, Typhoon XX is scheduled to make landfall over the capital...
...late this evening and through the night.
IT'S A REPORT ON THE STORM.
HYUUUA GWOOSHO
LOOKS LIKE IT HASN'T REACHED US YET... BUT IT'LL BE A BAD ONE.
High wind and wave advisories have been issued along the coast-line...
LET'S HOPE IT PASSES WITHOUT MUCH TROUBLE...
HITA (OUCH!)


ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROSE GARDEN IS THE IMPOSING USHIROMIYA FAMILY MANSION.
SO... YOU SAID FOOD WAS READY?
OH...YES! FORGIVE ME. PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE MANSION, EVERYONE.
RAIKA (RUSTLE)
THE BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED WHEN MY GRANDFATHER BOUGHT THE ISLAND.
IT'S AN OLD STRUCTURE, AND IT'S FALLING APART...
...BUT IT SEEMS LIKE A WASTE TO HAVE FEWER THAN TEN PEOPLE LIVING IN SUCH A HUGE HOUSE, EVEN INCLUDING THE SERVANTS.




HO-HO! SOUNDS PRETTY TASTY.
THE COOK HERE USED TO BE A CHEF AT A HIGH-CLASS HOTEL...
HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR A FEAST TONIGHT.


YOUR PARENTS ARE ALL IN THE DINING ROOM.
RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE...


UUU! WE EAT LIKE DOGS!
LET'S GO, MARIA! WE'LL MAKE A MESS OF OUR FOOD LIKE DOGS!




ZAWA
(SHIVER)


GURU
SPIN.
...!




WHAT THE...
...HELL IS THIS...?
BEA-TRICE.
UUU...


...THIS PORTRAIT OF BEATRICE-SAMA, THE WITCH OF ROKKENJIMA.
BEA...TRICE?
YEAH... THIS PAINTING WASN'T HERE THE LAST TIME YOU VISITED...
THAT PORTRAIT WAS HUNG ON THE WALL...
...ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO...
UUU.
BEA-TRICE!
THAT'S RIGHT...
MY LORD HIRED AN ARTIST TO PAINT...


...A PORTRAIT OF A WITCH?
YES.
DIDN'T YOU EVER HEAR THE STORY WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, BATTLER-KUN?


THE LEGEND OF THE WITCH OF ROKKEN-JIMA...


I FELT A CHILL RACE UP THE LENGTH OF MY BACK...
THIS WAS MY FIRST MEET-ING...
...WITH THE WITCH...


IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE THE LAST TIME I VISITED ROKKENJIMA FOR ONE OF THESE FAMILY GATHERINGS.
THE ENTIRE USHIROMIYA FAMILY IS SUPPOSED TO BE SITTING AROUND THE TABLE FOR A MEAL, BUT THERE'S ONE PROBLEM...
GURURU (GURGLE)
KYUU (WHIIINE)
BOY, GRANDDAD'S SURE TAKING HIS SWEET TIME...
WHAT'S HE DOING?


Chapter 3: The Golden Witch


Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch


DON (BANG)
...FA-THER!
DON
DON
カチ…
KACHI (TICK)
カチ
KACHI
KACHI
BARA (FLIP)
BARA
BARA
BARA
BASA (FLAP)
FA-THER!
WE ARE ALL AWAITING YOUR PRESENCE AT THE TABLE! PLEASE COME JOIN US!
FATHER, THIS IS THE ONE DAY OF THE YEAR THAT THE FAMILY GATHERS HERE!
DON
DON
DON
FATH—
BAN (WHAM)
SILENCE!!


I CANNOT HEAR THE WHISPERING OF THE GREEN FAERIES!! SUMMON GENJI!! HAVE HIM PREPARE MY DRAFT OF WORMWOOD!!!
...IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME TO CALL HIM.
SEE TO THE OLD MAN, GENJI-SAN.
...AT ONCE, SIR.
HEAD SERVANT GENJI RONOWE
WHY MUST I SUFFER THESE INSOLENT INTERRUP-TIONS ON SUCH A PRECIOUS DAY!!?
I WILL KILL ANY MAN WHO TRIES TO PULL ME FROM MY STUDY AND GIVE HIS BODY TO THE WITCH'S FURNACE!!!


SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT, EVERYONE.
SO HE KEEPS US WAITING THIS WHOLE TIME, THEN HE WON'T EVEN SHOW UP?
TRUST ME, IT'S NOTHING WE DON'T SEE ON A DAILY BASIS.
AS USUAL, GENJI-SAN'S LEFT TO CARE FOR GRANDFATHER WHILE THE OLD MAN'S IN ONE OF HIS MOODS.
DAD REFUSES TO JOIN US.
THEREFORE, I SUGGEST WE START LUNCH ON OUR OWN.
I SUPPOSE DAD'S TOO BUSY WORSHIPPING THAT WITCH TO COME ENJOY A NICE LUNCH WITH HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD.


GATAN (THWAM)
BYULOOOO (WHOOSH)
THE WITCH, HUH ...?
DIDN'T YOU EVER HEAR THE STORY WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, BATTLER-KUN?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT DOES RING A BELL...
THE LEGEND OF THE WITCH OF ROKKEN-JIMA...
OH, BOY... HERE IT COMES...
ZAAAA (SSHH)
GATA
GATA (RATTLE)
BIKU (JUMP)
WANDERING OUT OF THE FOREST IN SEARCH OF HUMAN SACRIFICES...
SHE COMES ON THESE DARK, STORMY NIGHTS, BATTLER...


THE TERRIBLE WITCH OF ROKKENJIMA, BEATRICE-SAMA...


YOU MEAN THAT PORTRAIT HANGING IN THE HALL...
...A PICTURE OF THE REAL WITCH FROM THE LEGEND?
...IS ACTU-ALLY...


OUR PARENTS MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SCARE US INTO BEHAVING WITH THAT ONE WHEN I WAS A KID...
LIGHT-BULB
SEE THE GLOWING EYE OF THE WITCH?
STAY AWAY FROM THE WOODS, OR THE WITCH WILL GET YOU!
I'M NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO FALL FOR THAT ONE ANY-MORE.
...PSYCH!


BUT THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS WITCHES...
NO WAY...


BEATRICE IS REAL!!
UUU! THERE IS A WITCH!!
HA! HA-HA. I BELIEVE IN HER, MARIA-CHAN.
NOW DON'T SULK. LET'S ENJOY OUR LUNCH.
UUU.
UUU! BATTLER DOESN'T BELIEVE!! UUUU!!
WHAT'S THAT, MARIA? YOU BELIEVE IN WITCHES?


NOW, THEN...
TODAY'S GUEST OF HONOR MUST BE BATTLER-KUN, WHO HAS NOT GRACED US WITH HIS PRESENCE IN MANY YEARS.
DO ENJOY YOUR-SELF.
FUTURE HEAD OF MOUSE (FIRST IN LINE) & JESSICA'S FATHER
KRAUSS USHIROMIYA
THANK YOU.
...UH, YEAH.
UNCLE KRAUSS IS GRAND-DAD'S ELDEST SON.
HE'S KIND OF HAUGHTY AND SELF-IMPOR-TANT... I'M NOT A BIG FAN.
HEH...


SECOND IN-LINE, GEORGE'S MOTHER
EVA USHIROMIYA

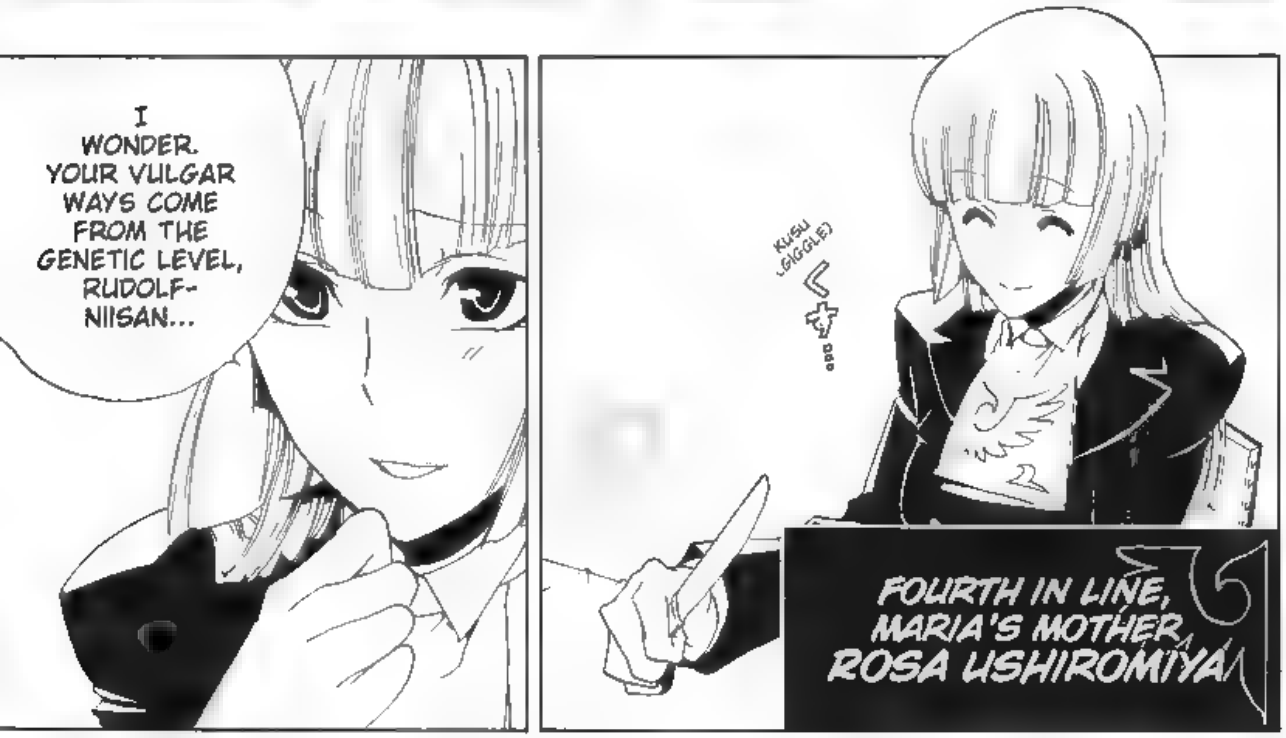

I NEARLY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU AFTER SIX YEARS, BATTLER-KUN.


STOP TEASING ME, AUNTIE!
NO! NOPE! NONE AT ALL!


I SUPPOSE THE BLOODLINE MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR INCREASE IN HEIGHT.
U FU FU FU FU!
WITH LOOKS LIKE THAT, I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF JUICY STORIES TO SHARE, HMM?


U FU FU FU FU.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HOPE HIS RESEMBLANCE TO RUDOLF DOESN'T EXTEND TO BREAKING HEARTS LEFT AND RIGHT.
DON (THUMP)
DON
DON
HRRGH!!

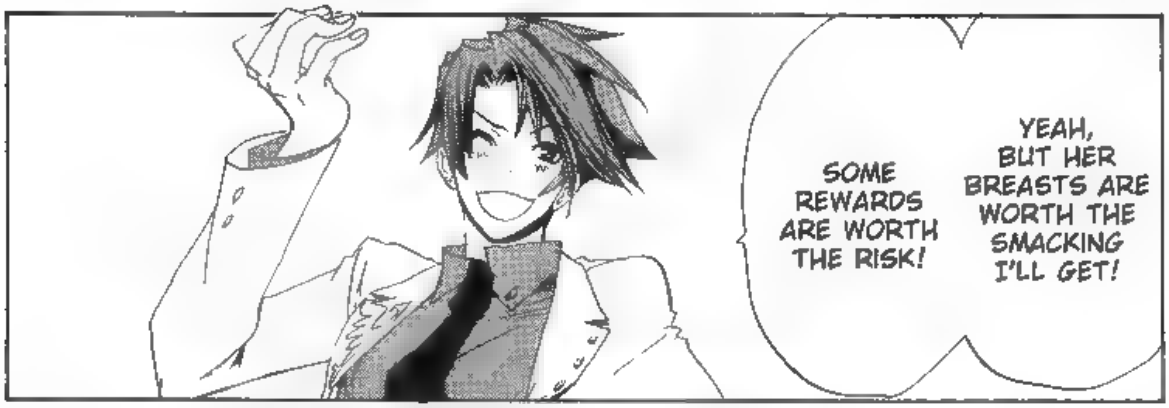

COME NOW, SISTER ...
I GAVE UP THAT NONSENSE LONG AGO.
KYU (TUG)
THIRD IN LINE, BATTLER'S FATHER, RUDOLF USHIROMIYA


I WONDER. YOUR VULGAR WAYS COME FROM THE GENETIC LEVEL, RUDOLF-NIISAN...
KUSU (GIGGLE)
FOURTH IN LINE, MARIA'S MOTHER, ROSA USHIROMIYA


...WHILE AUNT ROSA IS LEVEL-HEADED AND WELCOMING.
EVERYONE CAN AGREE THAT MY WORTHLESS DAD IS AN UNSCRUPULOUS WOMANIZER...
NOT YOU TOO, ROSA!


REMEMBER, BATTLER-KUN, NEXT TIME YOU TRY TO MOLEST HER, SHANNON-CHAN'S STRIKING BACK.
SIXTH IN LINE
GEORGE USHIROMIYA


YOU OBVIOUSLY GET YOUR PERVERTED SIDE FROM YOUR DAD, BATTLER.
GIMME A BREAK! I DON'T WANNA BE LIKE THAT CRAPPY EXCUSE FOR A FATHER.
FIFTH IN LINE
JESSICA USHIROMIYA


SOME REWARDS ARE WORTH THE RISK!
YEAH, BUT HER BREASTS ARE WORTH THE SMACKING I'LL GET!


MARIA WANTS TO GROW UP SOON SO BATTLER CAN TOUCH HER BOOBS TOO!! UUU!
UUU, UUU!
EIGHTH IN LINE
MARIA USHIROMIYA


GORI
GORI (GRIND)
Ow, Ow, Ow, Ow! STOP IT, ASS-HOLE!!
BATTLER! WHAT KIND OF FILTH HAVE YOU BEEN PUTTING IN THAT SWEET LITTLE GIRL'S MIND!?
M-MARIA!?
UUU.
DON'T SAY THAT AGAIN, MARIA!
UU?
I WAS JUST JOKING AROUND...
WA HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HEE HEE HEE!
.....
NINTH IN LINE, JESSICA'S MOTHER
NATSUHI USHIROMIYA


I GOT BIGGER!
THANKS! ALL I DID WAS EAT, SCROUNGE, AND SCARF, AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED!
...YES.
YOU REALLY HAVE GROWN QUITE A LOT, BATTLER-KUN...
I SUPPOSE THAT MANLY FRAME OF YOURS MUST HAVE INHERITED QUITE A LOT OF FATHER'S BLOOD.
...COME ON, AUNT NATSUHI!! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO POINT OUT THAT ALL I'VE DONE IS EAT!!
"HOW DO I RESPOND TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
TALK ABOUT A HARD LADY TO JOKE AROUND WITH!

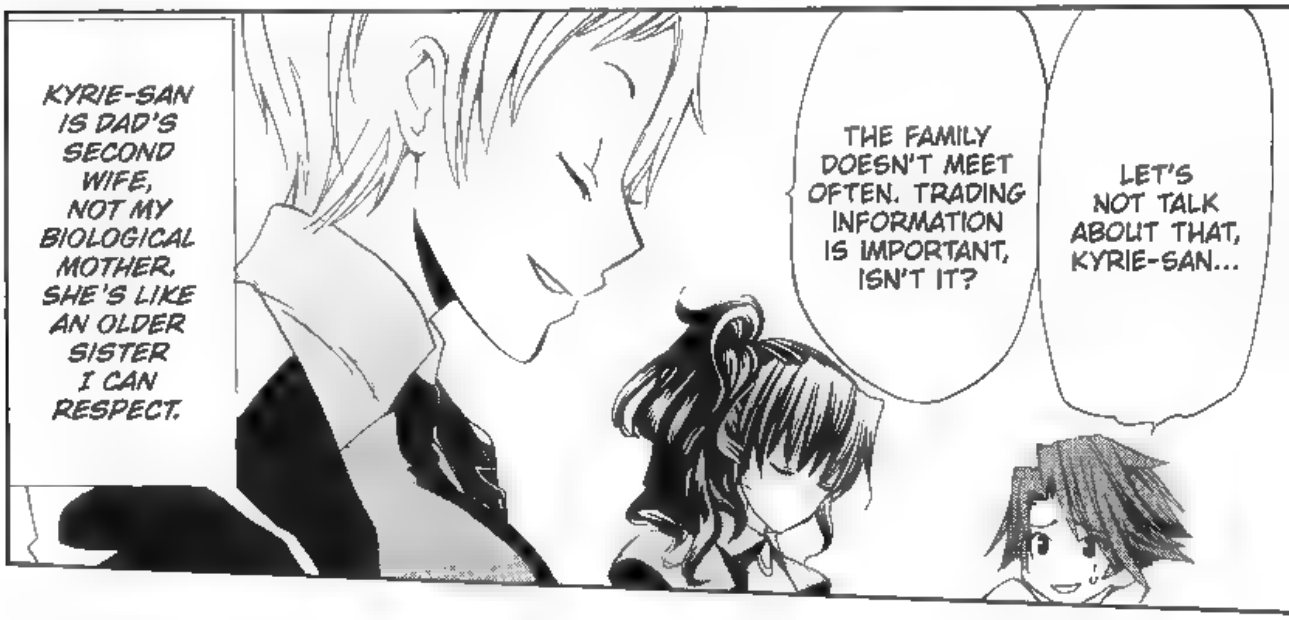

BWA HA HA HA!
SOUNDS LIKE ALL YOU'VE DONE IS EAT, BATTLER-KUN!
TENTH IN LINE, GEORGE'S FATHER
HIDEYOSHI USHIROMIYA


UNCLE HIDE-YOSHI IS A FRIENDLY AND LIVELY MAN AND GOOD WITH THE CHILDREN.
HEE-HEE! I'LL BE CAREFUL.


THEN YOU'LL BE MAKIN' THE GIRLS CRY FOR A VERY DIFFERENT REASON!
OR ALL THEM GOOD LOOKS WILL TURN OUT LIKE MINE!
YOU DON'T WANNA OVER-EAT!
PON (PAT)


A MAN'S WORTH IS DECIDED BY MORE THAN JUST HIS LOOKS.
KUSU (GIGGLE)


ELEVENTH IN LINE, RUDOLF'S SECOND WIFE
KYRIE USHIROMIYA
THIS IS YOUR EXAM YEAR, ISN'T IT?
HOW ARE YOUR STUDIES GOING?


KYRIE-SAN IS DAD'S SECOND WIFE, NOT MY BIOLOGICAL MOTHER. SHE'S LIKE AN OLDER SISTER I CAN RESPECT.
THE FAMILY DOESN'T MEET OFTEN. TRADING INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT, ISN'T IT?
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT, KYRIE-SAN...


REMEMBER TO HIT THE BOOKS SOMETIMES, BATTLER.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT AIN'T THE STUDYIN' ITSELF, BUT THE ACT OF LEARNIN' THAT'S THE VALUABLE THING.


B-BUZZ OFF!
MIND YOUR WORDS, JESSICA.
YOU ARE NOT SPEAK-ING AS A PROPER HEIR TO THE USHI-ROMIYA NAME WOULD.
MUGU (HUGU)
OUR DAUGHTER HAS HER EXAMS AS WELL.
PERHAPS YOU'D DO US THE FAVOR OF TEACHING HER A THING OR TWO.


...HMM?


BATTLER, WE HAVE TO GET THEM OFF THE TOPIC OF EXAMS!
WE GET SEATED AT THE TABLE ACCORDING TO THE LINE OF SUCCESSION, SO WE'RE SURROUNDED BY PARENTS ON EITHER SIDE. NO ESCAPE...


HEY, JESSICA, WHO'S SITTING ACROSS FROM KYRIE-SAN? THAT ISN'T MARIA'S DAD, IS IT?
...OH...


KINZOU'S
ATTENDING PHYSICIAN
TERUMASA NANJOU

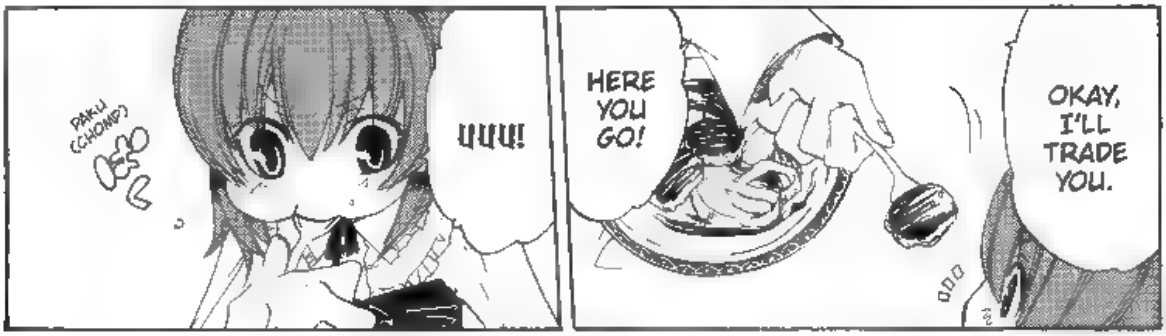

MARIA'S DAD ISN'T HERE.
THAT'S DR. NANJOU, GRAND-FATHER'S PHYSICIAN.


HYOI (JAB)
ひぃ!
UUU!


...A DOCTOR AT OUR FAMILY GATHER-ING...?
...I SEE. SO WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT BOTH HOW MUCH TIME HE HAS LEFT TO LIVE AND WHAT TO DO WITH THE INHERITANCE...


THIS IS GOOD! EAT IT, BATTLER! UUU!!









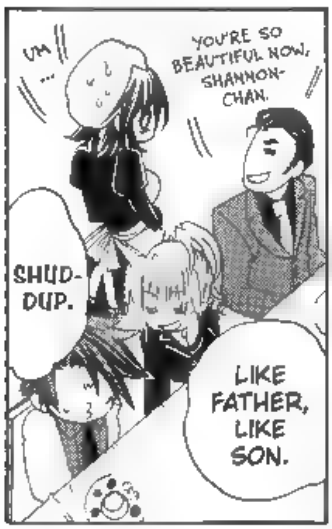

...OF COURSE, THE INHERITANCE MEANS NOTHING TO US KIDS.


MAN, THIS LUNCH IS FANTASTIC.
IT'S BEEN AWESOME FROM APPETIZER TO MAIN COURSE.
THIS IS OUR SERVANT, GOUDA. HE WAS IN CHARGE OF TODAY'S LUNCH.
FAMILY SERVANT
TOSHIROU GOUDA
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, BATTLER-SAMA.
!?
MY NAME IS GOUDA. I'VE BEEN SERVING HERE FOR TWO YEARS, SIR.
WOW, YOU'RE HUGE! YOU LOOK MORE LIKE A BODY-GUARD THAN A COOK.


GAKON (THUMP)
WE'LL BRING OUT THE DESSERT NOW.
I THINK YOU'LL ALL BE VERY PLEASED WITH IT.
BUT YOUR WORK IS VERY DELICATE FOR SUCH AN IMPOSING MAN.
THANK YOU, SIR.


GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
HEY! SHANNON-CHAN!


KACHA (CLINK)
E...
ENJOY...
KOPOPOPO (BLUB BLUB)
TSUU (SHPP)


UM...
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL NOW, SHANNON-CHAN.
SHUD-DUP.
LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON.

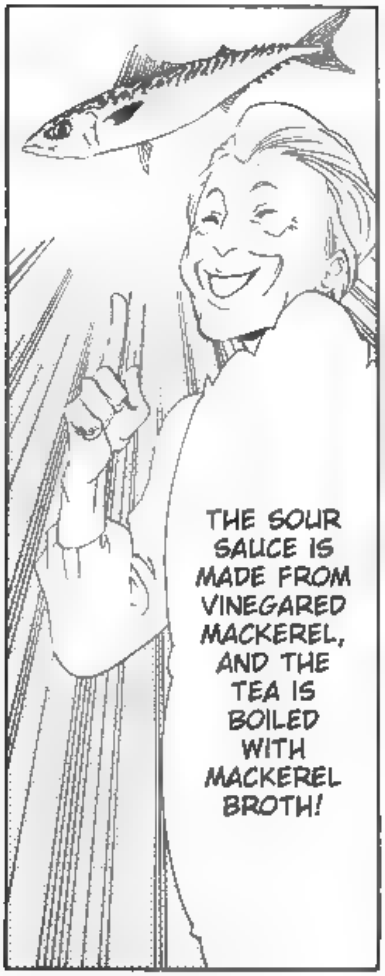

UM... YOU'RE ... WEL-COME.
THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES A DESSERT EVEN BETTER IS WHEN IT'S SERVED TO YOU BY A BEAU-TIFUL GIRL! THANKS!


UUU...
PAKU (CHOMP)
ぱく
UU!!
WHAT? CAN DESSERT SAUCES BE DUDS?
UU!! BATTLER, THIS SAUCE IS SOUR! IT'S A UUU!!
UH ...
WELL ...
UMM...
UM...
SHANNON-CHAN, WHAT ARE THESE TWO COLORED SAUCES?
OH DEAR...
I, ER...


I'M SO SORRY. I'LL GO AND CHECK...
...UM... I...
WELL, WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHAT BRAND OF TEA THIS IS, SHANNON-CHAN?
SHAN-NON!
AH... AH... I... THAT'S ...
OTHERWISE WE'LL NEED TO USE THE FAMILY'S SPECIAL SILVER SPOON FOR POISON TASTING.
KUSU (GIGGLE)
KUSU...
THIS WON'T DO, SHANNON-CHAN. YOU CAN'T SERVE YOUR GUESTS FOOD YOU CAN'T IDENTIFY.


DON'T PICK ON THE POOR GIRL, YOU TWO. IT'S JUST A TINY MISTAKE, THAT'S ALL.
BIKU (301?)
SIGH...
...THAT THE FAILURE OF THE SERVANTS REFLECTS POORLY ON THE DIGNITY OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.
I'M SURE THAT AUNT NATSUHI FEELS...
.....
...NOW I FEEL BAD FOR ASKING SHANNON-CHAN THAT QUESTION...
AND AUNT EVA WAS JUST BEING CRUEL.
SHE'S A VERY PROUD WOMAN.


DO YOU WISH TO KNOW... THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUERY ...?
EEP!!!


THE SOUR SAUCE IS MADE FROM VINEGARED MACKEREL, AND THE TEA IS BOILED WITH MACKEREL BROTH!


ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU WISH TO KNOW? YOU MIGHT BE SHOCKED BY THE TRUTH.
Ho Ho Ho...
K-K-KUMA-SAWA-SAN!!?

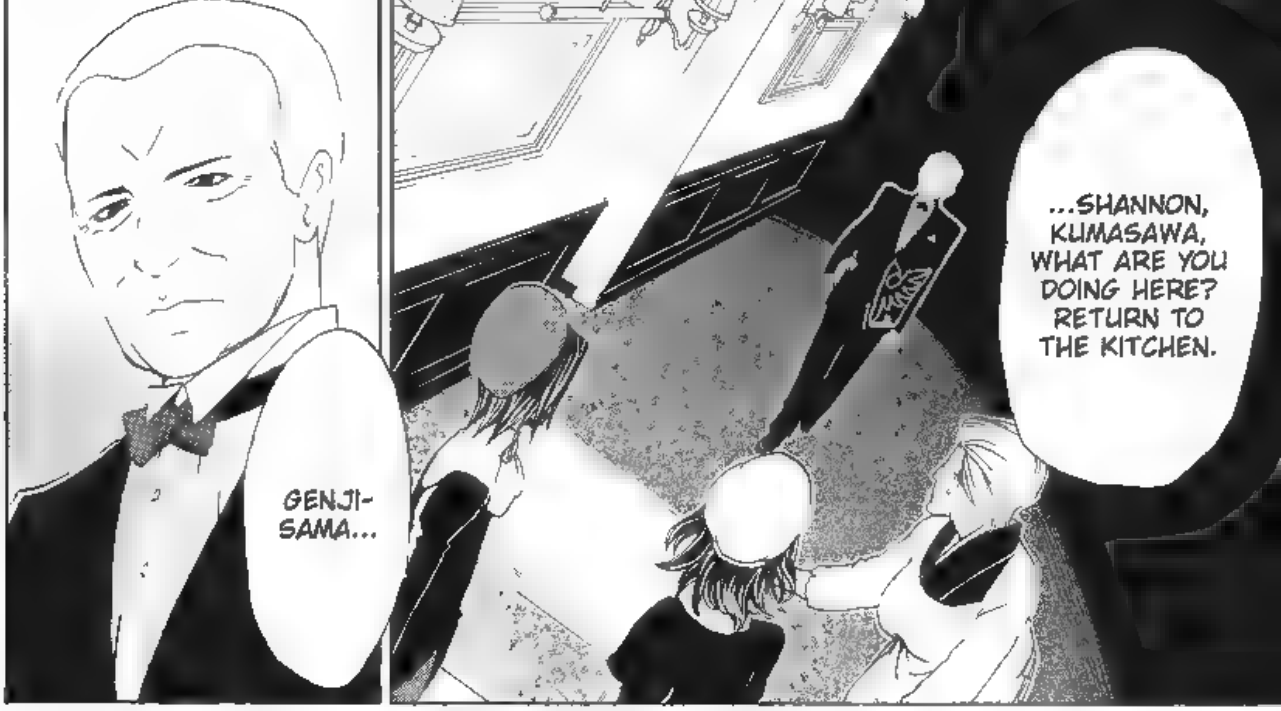

... HUH?
IT IS MADE FROM MACKEREL.


HO HO HO HO...
NOW I REMEMBER WHAT SHE'S LIKE! OLD KUMASAWA-SAN JUST LOVES TEASING PEOPLE AND PUSHING THEIR BUTTONS!
WA HA HA HA!
DO (BOOM)
MACKEREL FOR DESSERT!? NOW I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING!
THAT'S WHAT I CALL A SAVORY CUP OF TEA!
WA HA HA HA!
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE SAUCES ACTUALLY ARE, GOUDA-SAN CAN TELL YOU.
HA HA HA.
AND SHE HELPED TAKE THE HEAT OFF OF SHANNON-CHAN... NICE MOVE!


.....
AHEM!
TODAY'S DESSERT WAS THEMED AFTER OUR ROSE GARDEN, WITH ROSE PETALS AND ROSE HIP TEA...
PATAMU (THUMP)


AND GOUDA TOO...!
THE LADY OF THE HOUSE AND EVA-SAMA BOTH HAVE IT IN FOR YOU... I HOPE THEY BURN IN HELL...!
DON'T GET DOWN. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
KANON-KUN...!
THAT'S MY JOB.
...YOU WERE WATCHING...
...BUT HE STOOD THERE SILENTLY AND LET YOU BE HUMILIATED...!!
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT GOES INTO THE FOOD...
KANON-KUN...
SO I SWISH
Wa...


.....
...AND KNOWING THAT YOU'RE ON MY SIDE MAKES MY HEART REST EASIER.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I CAN HANDLE IT...
GOUDA-SAN MIGHT BE JEALOUS OF YOU BECAUSE TWO PEOPLE YOUNGER THAN HIM HAVE RECEIVED THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE...BUT DON'T LET THAT BOTHER YOU!
OLD KUMASAWA HERE IS ALWAYS A FRIEND!
KA
THANK YOU, KU-MASAWA-SAN...FOR BACKING ME UP...
I DIDN'T DO A THING THAT DESERVES A WORD OF THANKS, SO KEEP IT TO YOURSELF!

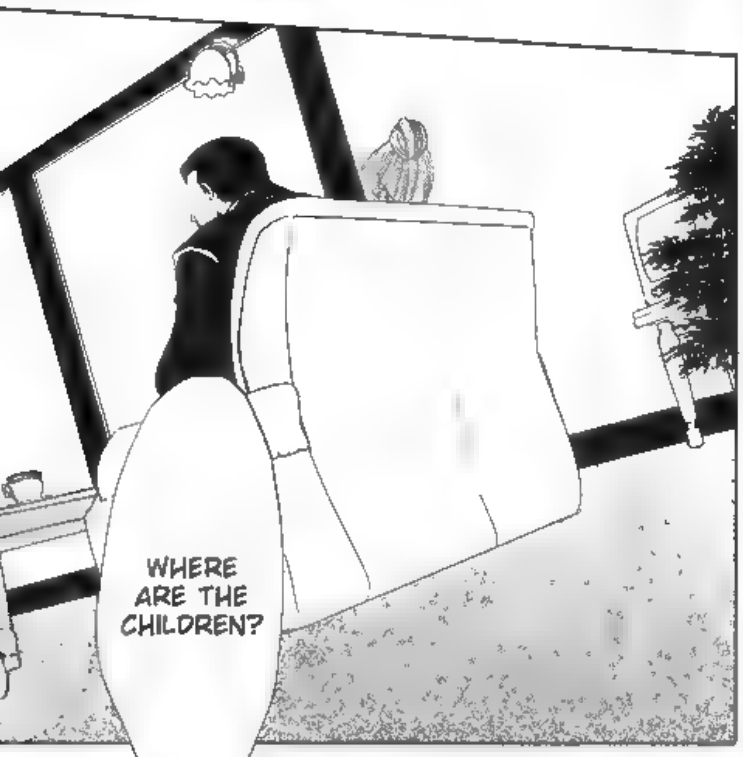

GENJI-SAMA...
...SHANNON, KUMASAWA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? RETURN TO THE KITCHEN.


WHAT IS IT? HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED, KANON?

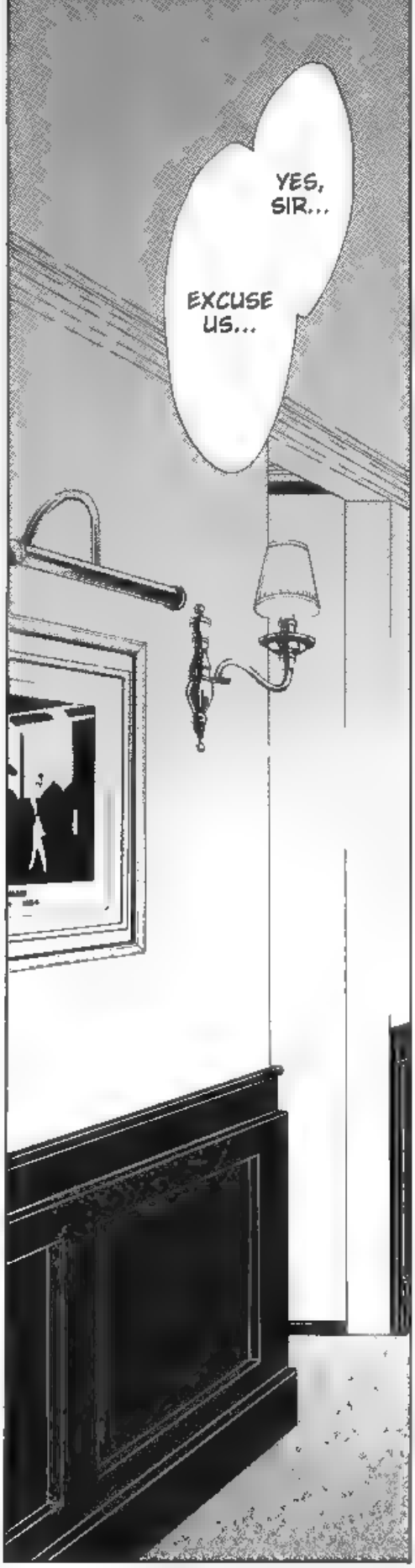

SH-SHANNON DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, BUT THEY ALL GANGED UP AND—
STOP IT, KANON-KUN!
...IT WAS NOTHING. WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE KITCHEN TO WORK.


...IF THAT IS ALL, BE ON YOUR WAY.




WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?


THEY'VE GONE DOWN TO THE BEACH TO PLAY. GROWN UP OR NOT, THEY'RE STILL KIDS INSIDE.


YES, SIR...
EXCUSE US...

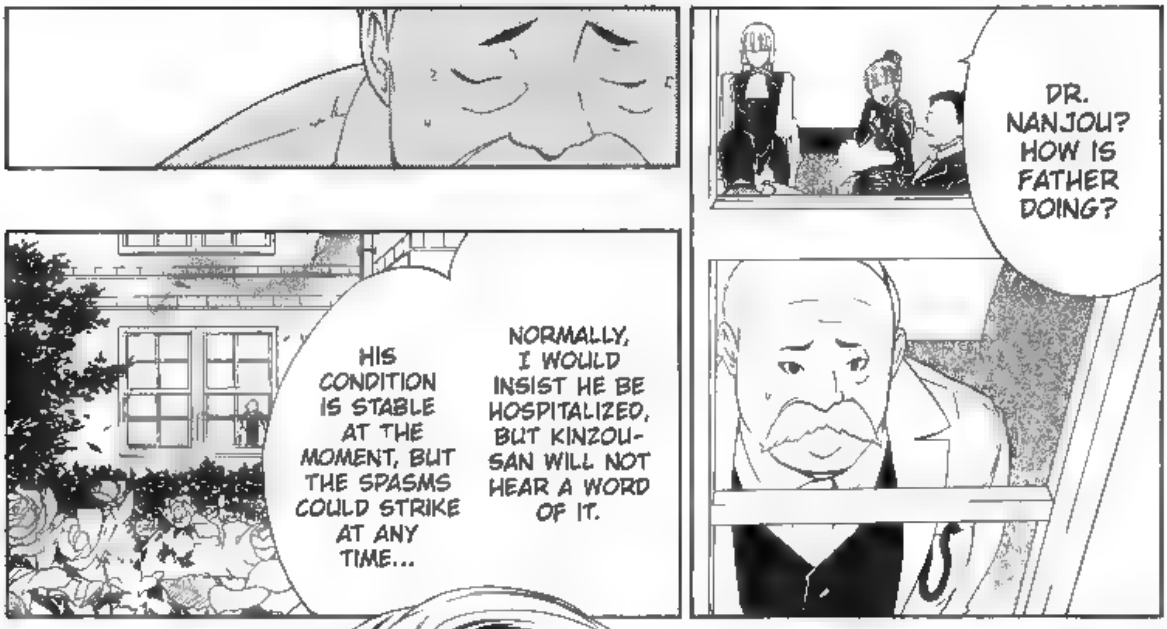

...AND THAT... WOULD BE?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
...LET'S GET DOWN TO THE REAL BUSINESS HERE.
THEY GROW UP SO FAST, DON'T THEY? YA TURN AROUND FOR A MINUTE, AND YOU CAN'T RECOGNIZE 'EM ANYMORE.
I PROPOSE A MORE INTELLECTUAL DISCUSSION.
WELL, WE'RE NOT CHILDREN HERE.
.....
...THAT'S RIGHT. NOW THAT THE LITTLE ONES ARE GONE...

# THE MATTER OF THE INHERITANCE.






CERTAINLY THERE'S NO HARM IN DISCUSSING THE MATTER?
WELL, HE HAS TO DIE SOMETIME, DOESN'T HE?


DR. NANJOU? HOW IS FATHER DOING?
NORMALLY, I WOULD INSIST HE BE HOSPITALIZED, BUT KINZOU-SAN WILL NOT HEAR A WORD OF IT.
HIS CONDITION IS STABLE AT THE MOMENT, BUT THE SPASMS COULD STRIKE AT ANY TIME...


ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T BEING A BIT HASTY WITH THIS TALK OF DISTRIBUTING THE INHERITANCE?
HIS WRATH IS AS IMPERIOUS AS EVER, AND HE COULD PROBABLY LIVE ON HIS WILLPOWER ALONE FOR DECADES.
WELL, HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A MAN WITH ONLY THREE MONTHS LEFT TO LIVE TO ME.


ARE YOU CERTAIN? TO ME, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOU'RE DESPERATELY TRYING TO STEER US AWAY FROM THE TOPIC.
IS THERE SOME REASON YOU'D BE SO INSISTENT? PERHAPS...
...WE HAVE AN ISSUE WITH EMBEZZLEMENT ON OUR HANDS?
WHA—!?


YOUR BUSINESS VENTURES ARE BLEEDING CASH LEFT AND RIGHT, AND YOU'RE RACKING UP DEBT. WHERE ARE YOU GETTING THE MONEY TO KEEP OPERATING?
YOU WOULDN'T BE PILFERING FUNDS FROM FATHER'S ESTATE, WOULD YOU?


GATA (THUNK)
HOW DARE YOU!?
YOU DO NOT SPEAK TO THE FUTURE HEAD OF THE FAMILY THAT WAY!!


YOUR [redacted] ABOUT THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE ARE INAPPRO-PRIATE!! YOU INSULT THE FUTURE HEAD OF THE FAMILY!!
BI (WHOOSH)
PATA (FLAP)
WHO ARE YOU SPEAKING TO IN THAT MANNER?
ER... NATSUHI-NEE-SAN?
AS THE FUTURE LADY OF THE HOUSE, I WILL NOT HEAR SUCH INSOLENCE AGAIN!!
TO MY HUS-BAND'S SISTER!
LEAVE THIS HOUSE AT ONCE!!!
YOU DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD OF THE PROUD AND GLORIOUS USHIROMIYA FAMILY!!!
HA... HA-HA-HA-HA...
... FUTURE LADY...?


HOLD YOUR TONGUE, YOU GLORIFIED MAID-SERVANT...


YOU LEAVE, FOUL WENCH!!! YOU HAVE NO USHIROMIYA BLOOD IN YOUR VEINS—YOU ARE NOTHING BUT AN INCUBATOR FOR A REAL HEIR!!!
UNDER-STAND YOUR PLACE IN THIS HOUSE!!!
AN OUTSIDER WITH NO RIGHT TO WEAR THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE DARES TO ORDER AROUND EVA USHIROMIYA, THE SECOND IN LINE TO THE FAMILY NAME!!?

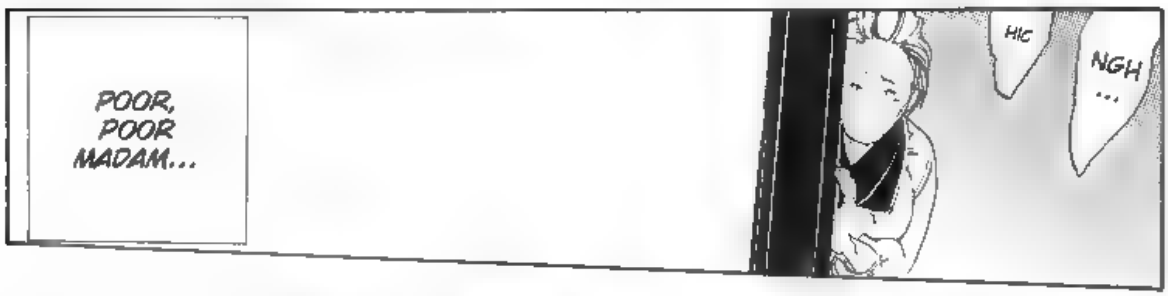

YOU TOO ...!!?
STEP BACK, NATSUHI. JUST RELAX.
...!!!


BAM! (SLAM)
KA (CLICK)
NNH...
NNN... NNH...
KA
UNH...
BAM! (SLAM)


NNRRGH!
RRRRRRRH!!
HOW DARE SHE DISGRACE ALL OF OUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE HONOR OF THE USHIROMIYA NAME?
AND EVEN MY OWN HUSBAND WILL NOT COME TO MY SIDE...
IS THIS HOW I AM TO BE REPAID FOR ALL OF MY CARE AND CONCERN FOR THE FAMILY...?
RRH... AAAH!!
GYU (SQUEEZE)


AAH
...
AAA-
AAA-
AAH...


RRRH
...
GI
(SQUEEZE)
GRIP!
GUH.


POOR,
POOR
MADAM...
HIC
NGH
...


IT
MUST BE
TERRIBLY
DIFFICULT
FOR HER.
NEVER
ALLOWED TO
WEAR THE
FAMILY'S CREST,
EVEN AFTER SHE
HAD MARRIED IN,
TREATED LIKE A
COMPLETE OUTSIDER
BECAUSE SHE
DOES NOT SHARE
THEIR BLOOD...


IF ONLY JESSICA-SAMA HAD BEEN BORN SOONER!
EVA-SAMA WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE ADVAN-TAGE BY BIRTHING GEORGE-SAMA FIRST...
...AND MY LADY WOULD NOT HAVE BLAMED HERSELF FOR HER LONG LACK OF CHILDREN...


...A DEPOSIT?
KOCHI コチ...
KACHI カチ...
KOCHI (TICK) コチ
KACHI (TICK) カチ




YOU WANT ME TO DIVVY UP 750 MILLION YEN OF THE INHERITANCE MONEY AMONG THE REST OF YOU...
...AND YOU WILL IN TURN OVERLOOK MY EMBEZZLEMENT?
IS THAT THE DEAL?


HA HA HA HA HA HA ...
HA HA ...
700 MILLION SHOULD BE A DROP IN THE BUCKET.
IT'S MERELY AN OUTWARD SIGN OF YOUR REGRET, KRAUSS-NIISAN.

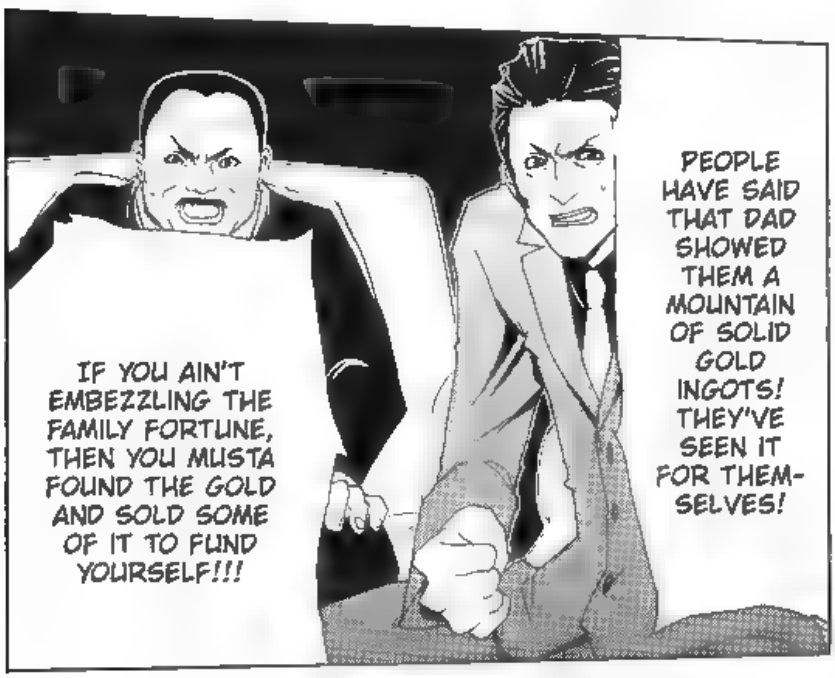

AND ROSA... HAVE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON ABOUT COSIGNING ON LOANS?
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ...?
!
AND RUDOLF... WITH SOME EXTRA SPENDING MONEY YOU COULD SETTLE OUT OF COURT BACK IN AMERICA AND AVOID A MESSY LAWSUIT, CORRECT?
HIDEYOSHI-SAN, I'VE ALREADY HEARD THE TALES ABOUT HOW YOUR COMPANY'S STOCK HAS ALL BEEN BOUGHT UP BY SOME RATHER UNSAVORY TYPES.
WHA ...!?

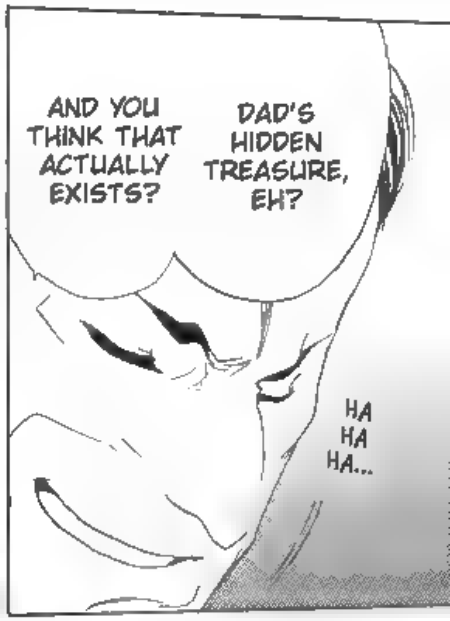

HA HA HA...
AND WE SIT HERE PRE-TENDING TO BE DIS-CUSSING THE FAIR DISTRIBU-TION OF THE INHERITANCE!
[illegible] WE ARE, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, HARD UP FOR CASH.


AS MUCH AS YOU CAN GRAB WITH YOUR GRUBBY HANDS!!!
ALL YOU WANT IS MONEY! AS MUCH AS YOU CAN GET!!
I CANNOT PAY YOU A SINGLE COIN.
SADLY, I HAVE NEITHER THE MONEY TO FRONT YOU NOR ANY PART IN THE CRIMINAL ACTIONS YOU'VE ACCUSED ME OF!
SO YOU PLOTTED TOGETHER TO DIG UP DIRT ON ME, HOPING YOU COULD LEECH OFF THE CASH COW IN THE NAME OF "FAIR DISTRIBUTION"!
YES, YOU CAN!
YOU MUST! OR ELSE IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
WHAT A LOVING FAMILY WE HAVE HERE!


THERE'S THAT HIDDEN STOCKPILE OF TEN TONS OF GOLD THAT FATHER USED AS THE CORNER-STONE FOR HIS FORTUNE!
AND I KNOW YOU'VE FOUND IT AND WANT TO KEEP IT ALL FOR YOURSELF!




IF YOU AIN'T EMBEZZLING THE FAMILY FORTUNE, THEN YOU MUSTA FOUND THE GOLD AND SOLD SOME OF IT TO FUND YOURSELF!!!
PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT DAD SHOWED THEM A MOUNTAIN OF SOLID GOLD INGOTS! THEY'VE SEEN IT FOR THEM-SELVES!


AND YOU THINK THAT ACTUALLY EXISTS?
DAD'S HIDDEN TREASURE, EH?
HA HA HA...


IT SOUNDS LIKE NONE OF YOU HAVE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND SUCH SPONSORS.
I HAVE VALUABLE FRIENDS IN ELITE CIRCLES, FRIENDS WHO GAVE ME A HELPING HAND.


OF COURSE, IF I HAD REALLY FOUND A VAULT FULL OF GOLD...
...THIS WOULD BE THE PERFECT TIME TO SHARE IT WITH MY BELOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS...!
HOW DARE YOU TAKE ADVAN-TAGE OF US LIKE THIS...!?
...YOU'D NEVER DO THAT... NOT IN A MILLION YEARS...!


HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!!
ALAS! WHAT A SHAME!!
THANK YOU FOR THE REPORT.
I SEE...
...THEN THEY STOPPED TALKING ABOUT THE INHERITANCE... AND NOW THEY'RE DISCUSSING THE HIDING PLACE OF THE GOLD.


A FLOCK OF VULTURES CIRCLING AROUND MY HARD-EARNED FORTUNE...
AND THEY THINK THEY CAN SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF BEATRICE'S EPITAPH...
HEAD OF THE FAMILY KINZOU USHIROMIYA


WILL A MIRACLE COME TO PASS, OR WILL THE FOOLS DISCOVER THE GOLD FIRST? IT SHOULD BE QUITE THE SPECTACLE.
...WON'T IT, GENJI?
.....


I HEAR THAT BATTLER IS HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SIX YEARS...
VERY GOOD...THE MORE, THE MERRIER...











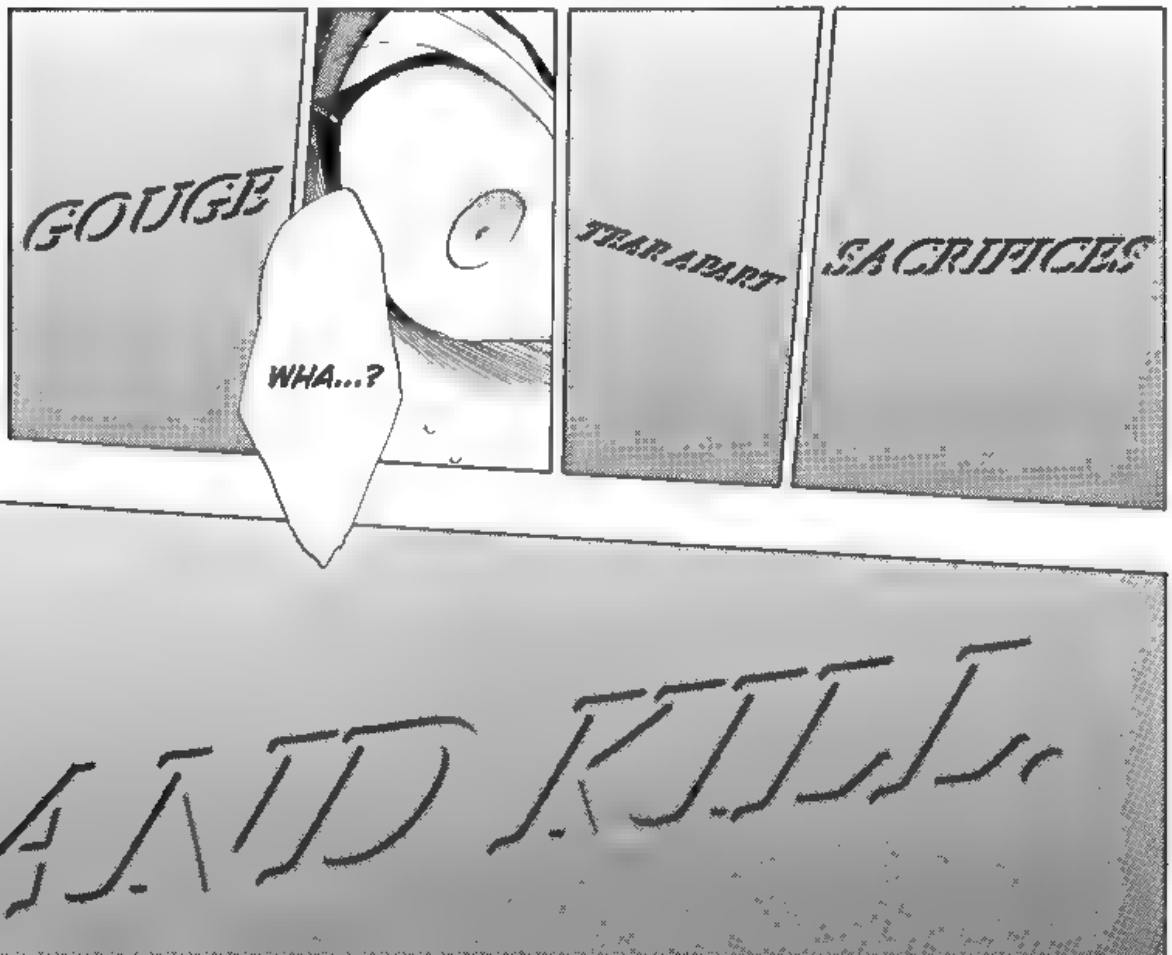





*IF YOU SEEK THE GOLDEN LAND, FOLLOW THE RIVER AND SEEK THE KEY. DOWNSTREAM, YOU WILL FIND A VILLAGE. IN THIS VILLAGE, SEEK THE SHORE OF WHICH TWO WILL SPEAK. THERE THE KEY TO THE GOLDEN LAND SLEEPS.*

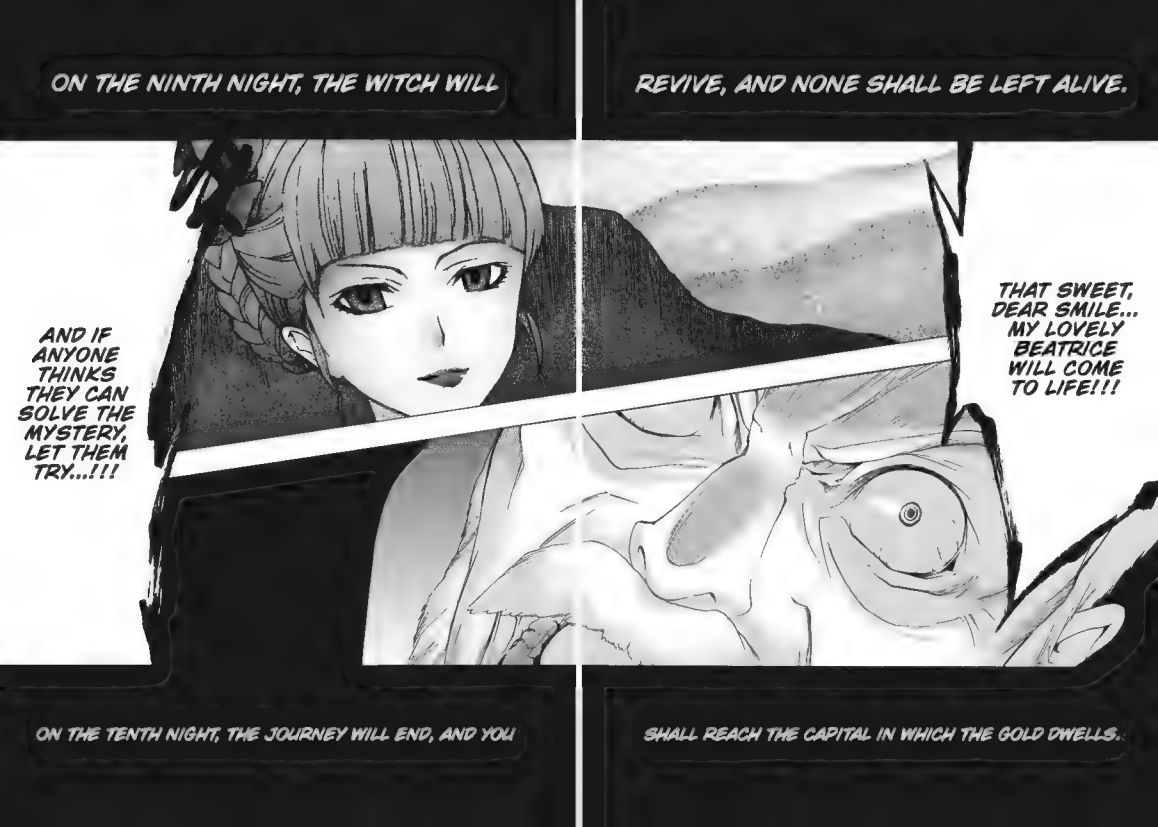
**DOWNSTREAM, YOU WILL FIND A VILLAGE. IN THIS VILLAGE, SEEK THE SHORE OF WHICH TWO WILL SPEAK. THERE THE KEY TO THE GOLDEN LAND SLEEPS.**


IF YOU SEEK THE GOLDEN LAND, FOLLOW
THE RIVER AND SHOT THE FAT DOWNSTREAM.
YOU WILL FIND A VILLAGE. IN THIS VILLAGE,
SHOT THE SHAPE OF WHICH YOU WILL SPEAK.
WHOEVER FINDS THE KEY SHOULD FOLLOW
GOLDEN LAND...?
WHOEVER FINDS THE KEY SHOULD FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS TO THE GOLDEN LAND.
...!?


GOUGE
WHA...?
TEAR APART
SACRIFICES
AND KILL...




I WILL GIVE YOU ALL OF THEIR LIVES!
GOUGE... AND KILL?
BUT I WILL EMERGE TRIUMPHANT! I WILL SURVIVE AND SEIZE THE MIRACLE FOR MYSELF!!
ONLY THEN WILL YOU FINALLY BE BROUGHT TO LIFE!!!
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS FREAKY EPITAPH...?


ON THE NINTH NIGHT, THE WITCH WILL
REVIVE, AND NONE SHALL BE LEFT ALIVE.
AND IF ANYONE THINKS THEY CAN SOLVE THE MYSTERY, LET THEM TRY...!!!
THAT SWEET, DEAR SMILE... MY LOVELY BEATRICE WILL COME TO LIFE!!!
ON THE TENTH NIGHT, THE JOURNEY WILL END, AND YOU
SHALL REACH THE CAPITAL IN WHICH THE GOLD DWELLS.


...
BEGINS
!!!
TONIGHT
!!!
THE HOLY NIGHT IN WHICH A MIRACLE IS WAGERED... THE GAME WITH THE DEMONS...
I SHALL GIVE ALL THESE THINGS TO THE ONE WHO SOLVES THE MYSTERY OF THE EPITAPH!!
THE WITCH WILL BREAK THE WEAK AND DESTROY YOUR TREASURES
ONE SHALL BE ALL THE GOLD AT THE GOLDEN GATE
ONE SHALL BE THE RESURRECTION OF THE SOULS OF THE DEAD
WEALTH! FAME!
GOLD! INHERITANCE!!
THE GREED OF THOSE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO SEEK IT SHALL BE THE SOURCE THAT IMPARTS A MIRACLE UNTO THIS GREAT ACT OF DARK MAGIC!!!


Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch

BEHOLD THE SWEETFISH RIVER RUNNING THROUGH MY BELOVED HOMETOWN.

IF YOU SEEK THE GOLDEN LAND, FOLLOW THE RIVER AND SEEK THE KEY.

DOWNSTREAM, YOU WILL FIND A VILLAGE.

IN THIS VILLAGE, SEEK THE SHORE OF WHICH TWO WILL SPEAK. THERE THE KEY TO THE GOLDEN LAND SLEEPS.

WHOSOEVER FINDS THE KEY SHOULD FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS TO THE GOLDEN LAND.

ON THE FIRST NIGHT, OFFER UP AS SACRIFICES THE SIX THE KEY CHOOSES.

ON THE SECOND NIGHT, THOSE WHO REMAIN WILL TEAR APART THE TWO WHO ARE CLOSE.

ON THE THIRD NIGHT, THOSE WHO REMAIN WILL PRAISE MY NOBLE NAME.

ON THE FOURTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE HEAD AND KILL.

ON THE FIFTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE CHEST AND A.

ON THE SIXTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE BELLY AND KILL.

ON THE SEVENTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE KNEE AND KILL.

ON THE EIGHTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE FOOT AND KILL.

ON THE NINTH NIGHT, THE WITCH WILL REVIVE, AND NONE SHALL BE LEFT ALIVE.

ON THE TENTH NIGHT, THE JOURNEY WILL END, AND YOU SHALL REACH THE CAPITAL IN WHICH THE GOLD DWELLS.




# Chapter 4: The Golden Epitaph

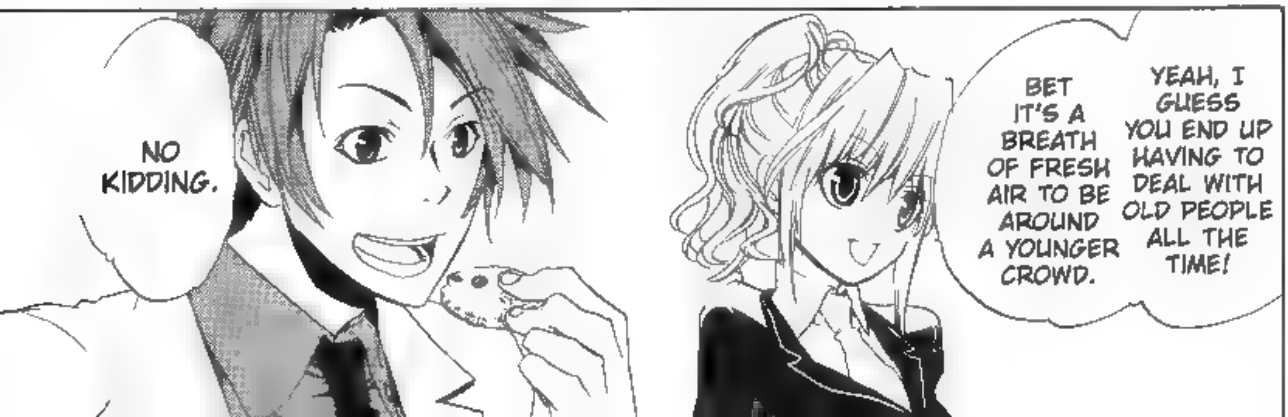








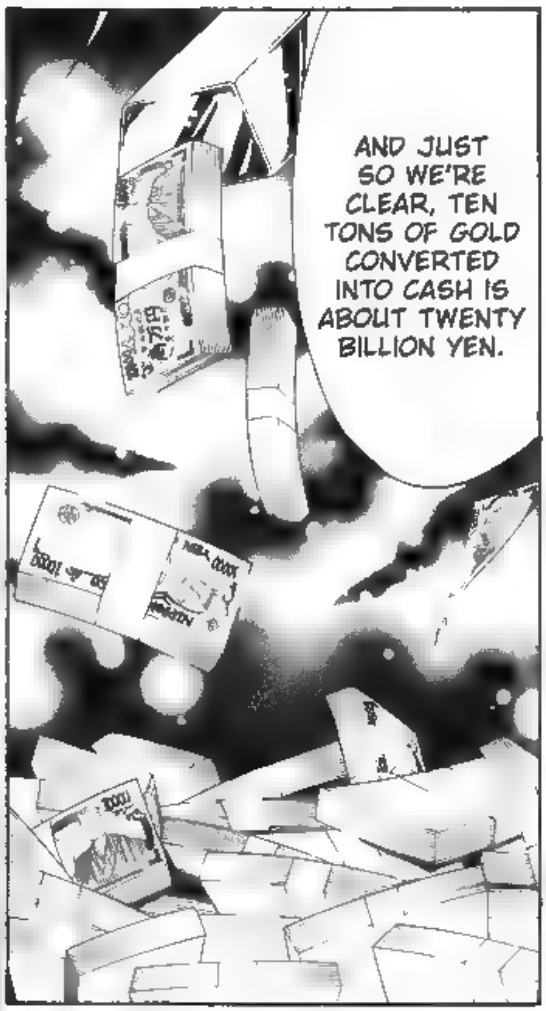

SFX: KOKU (NOD) KOKU




IT'S WHERE THE GOLD IS HIDDEN!!
SO... GETTING BACK TO THE TOPIC AT HAND...
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS GORY STUFF?
UUU! MARIA KNOWS!
GOLD...?
GRANDFATHER HAD THAT PAINTING AND EPITAPH COMMISSIONED TWO YEARS AGO, AND HE WON'T ELABORATE ON THEM.
GRANDDAD'S LEGENDARY TEN TONS OF GOLD THAT HE USED AS THE FOUNDATION OF HIS FORTUNE!?
IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?


THE REST OF THE FAMILY SEEMS TO THINK...
...THAT THE EPITAPH TELLS THE LOCATION OF THE GOLD AND THAT WHOEVER SOLVES THE MYSTERY WILL BE GIVEN THE GOLD AND THE INHERITANCE.


I... I NEVER KNEW WE WERE TALKING ABOUT SO MUCH MONEY...
TEN, HUNDRED, THOUSAND, MILLION...
I CAN'T EVEN WRAP MY HEAD AROUND IT...
TALK ABOUT FINDING YOURSELF ON EASY STREET!


AND JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, TEN TONS OF GOLD CONVERTED INTO CASH IS ABOUT TWENTY BILLION YEN.


AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SOLVE AN EPITAPH THAT SAYS WHERE THE GOLD IS? WHY WOULDN'T YOU GIVE IT A SHOT?
HEE HEE HEE!
PASHIN (SNAP)


GRANDDAD'S HOMETOWN IS ODAWARA, WHERE THE FAMILY USED TO LIVE!

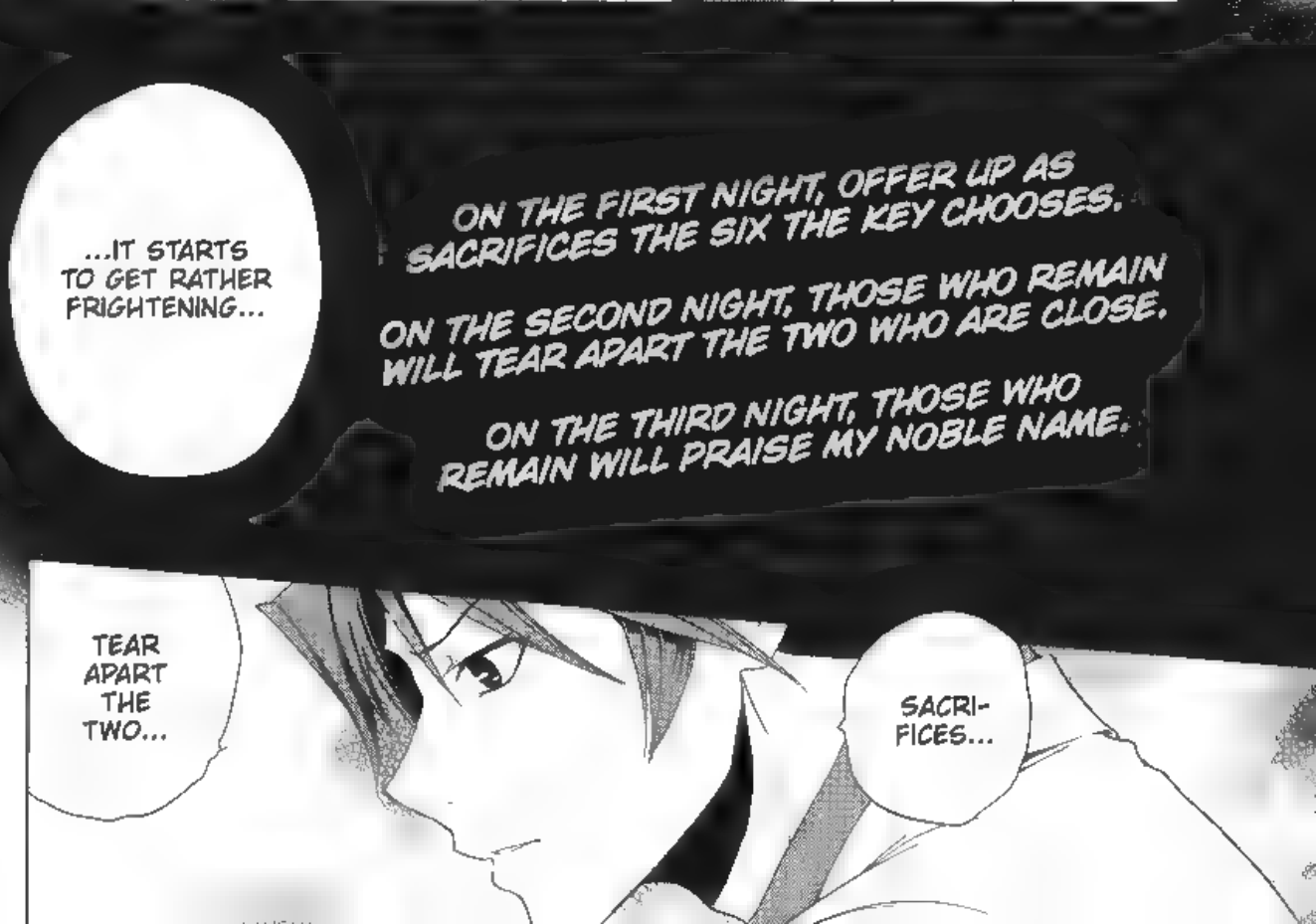

SO HOW DOES IT GO?
"BEHOLD THE SWEET-FISH RIVER RUNNING THROUGH MY BELOVED HOMETOWN. IF YOU SEEK THE GOLDEN LAND, FOLLOW THE RIVER AND SEEK THE KEY."


"DOWN-STREAM, YOU WILL FIND A VILLAGE..."


THE HAYA RIVER RUNS THROUGH ODAWARA, AND SWEET-FISH SWIM THROUGH ITS WATERS.
SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THAT!


...."THERE THE KEY TO THE GOLDEN LAND SLEEPS"!?
"IN THIS VILLAGE, SEEK THE SHORE OF WHICH TWO WILL SPEAK."
.....? WHAT'S DOWN THE HAYA RIVER?
SOGAKISHI
ODAWARA
ODAWARA CASTLE
HAYA RIVER
PACIFIC OCEAN
THAT'S NEAR ODAWARA CASTLE. IF YOU GO NORTH FROM ODAWARA CASTLE, THERE'S A PLACE CALLED SOGAKISHI, WHICH MEANS "THE SHORE OF SOGA."
WE'VE FOLLOWED THE CLUES THAT FAR AT LEAST.
WHICH MEANS...
IT DOESN'T ALL SEEM TO ADD UP, THOUGH.
THIS SOGAKISHI PLACE SOUNDS BIG, AND THE PART ABOUT "TWO WILL SPEAK" IS PRETTY ENIGMATIC.
MY MASTER SPEAKS OF THE GREAT KANTO EARTHQUAKE, WHICH NEARLY DESTROYED THE FAMILY, AS THOUGH HE DID NOT EXPERIENCE IT FOR HIMSELF...I BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE LIVED FARTHER AWAY FROM THAT AREA...


TSU (SHHK)
TSUITSU
?...
?...
HMM...
GRAND-FATHER WAS ORIGINALLY FROM A MINOR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY...
IF WE START LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACE, WE'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE.
WAIT. COULDN'T WE JUST BUST OPEN THE DOOR WITHOUT HAVING TO FIND THE KEY?
LET'S JUST SKIP THE FIRST FIVE LINES AND START FROM THERE.
PISHI (FLICK)
PISHI
MARIA USHIROMIYA
BUT THAT'S WHERE ...


...IT STARTS TO GET RATHER FRIGHTENING...
ON THE FIRST NIGHT, OFFER UP AS SACRIFICES THE SIX THE KEY CHOOSES.
ON THE SECOND NIGHT, THOSE WHO REMAIN WILL TEAR APART THE TWO WHO ARE CLOSE.
ON THE THIRD NIGHT, THOSE WHO REMAIN WILL PRAISE MY NOBLE NAME.
TEAR APART THE TWO...
SACRI-FICES...

ON THE FOURTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE HEAD AND KILL.
ON THE FIFTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE CHEST AND KILL.







ON THE SIXTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE BELLY AND KILL.
ON THE SEVENTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE KNEE AND KILL.
ON THE EIGHTH NIGHT, GOUGE THE FOOT AND KILL.







ON THE NINTH NIGHT, THE WITCH WILL REVIVE...


...AND NONE SHALL BE LEFT ALIVE.
"AND NONE SHALL BE LEFT ALIVE"...
ZAN (ZWOOSH)
IN THE END, EVERYONE IS GOING TO DIE ANYWAY...
ZAZAZAZAZA- (ZSSHHHD


ZAZAZA
ZAZA
ALSO, WHAT'S THE POINT OF REACHING THE GOLDEN LAND AFTER EVERYONE IS DEAD?


ON THE OTHER HAND, I'M PRETTY SURE I REMEMBER HEARING SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT GRANDDAD'S LEGENDARY TREASURE...
PARTICULARLY, HOW HE GOT THAT TEN TONS OF GOLD THAT STARTED HIS SUCCESS...
ACCORDING TO THE STORY, GRANDDAD SAID...


PLUS, THE FOUR TREASURES AFTER THAT INVOLVE THE DEAD AND LOST LOVE COMING BACK TO LIFE, THE AWAKENED WITCH GOING BACK TO SLEEP, AND SO ON...
ALL THIS STUFF ACTUALLY INVOLVING THE WITCH SOUNDS SO CORNY AND FISHY.


.....


"...I AM A GREAT AND MIGHTY SORCERER...
"...AND I CALLED FORTH THE GOLDEN WITCH, BEATRICE, AFTER A RITE OF DEMON SUMMONING...
"...WHO GAVE ME TEN TONS OF SOLID GOLD IN EXCHANGE FOR MY SOUL."
...OF COURSE, YOU COULD ALSO INTERPRET THAT TO MEAN THAT THE WITCH'S GOLD IN HIS STORY WAS ACTUALLY AN INVESTMENT FROM A WEALTHY BACKER.
TWENTY BILLION YEN IN CASH IS ONE THING...
...BUT IT'S PRETTY UNREALISTIC TO ASSUME THAT TEN TONS OF GOLD IS STILL JUST SITTING AROUND IN ONE PLACE.
GOLD IS HEAVY AND BULKY, SO IT'S NOT A PARTICULARLY EFFICIENT MEANS OF STOCKPILING WEALTH...


AH-HA-HA-HA!
...THEN IT'S WITCH THIS, WITCH THAT, ALL THROUGHOUT THE EPITAPH. IT'S KINDA SILLY WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
SO FIRST THE WITCH GIVES HIM THE GOLD...
HEE HEE HEE!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS WITCHES... THEY DON'T EXIST!
TOO TRUE.
BASHI (SNATCH)
UUU...
MARIA ...?


UUU... THE WITCH IS REAL!
SHE'S REAL, BUT BATTLER DOESN'T BELIEVE ...!!!
UUU, UUU!!
COME ON, MARIA. IT'S NOT WORTH GETTING THAT WORKED UP ABOUT, IS IT?
THINK ABOUT IT: YOU USED TO BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS, RIGHT?
MARIA SERIOUSLY BELIEVES IN THIS WITCH.
BAN (WHAP)
BAN
BAN
THE WITCH CAN DO ANYTHING WITH MAGIC!
SHE CAN GIVE LOVE AND STEAL IT AWAY!
SHE CAN FLY, AND SHE CAN MAKE GOLD AND BREAD APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR! UUU!


UUUUUU!! THE WITCH IS REAL!!
BEATRICE IS REAL!!
...I'M SORRY, MARIA. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO FASCINATED WITH WITCHES ...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I BELIEVE IN HER TOO.
UUU.
GUJU (SNUFFLE)
I BELIEVE IN WITCHES.
GYU (HUG)
YOU WANT TO BE A WITCH WHEN YOU GROW UP, DON'T YOU?


WHEN WINDOWS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSED ARE OPEN, LIGHTS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON ARE OFF, THINGS HAVE GONE MISSING...
...THESE MYSTERIOUS HAPPENINGS ...
...ARE SAID TO BE WICKED PRANKS PLAYED BY BEATRICE-SAMA LATE AT NIGHT, SNEAKING AROUND THE MANSION...
PUI (POUT)
WELL, DANG... I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET MARIA IN A BAD MOOD.
UUU ...
.....MARIA-SAMA...
...THERE ARE SPOOKY STORIES ABOUT BEATRICE-SAMA THAT ARE TOLD BETWEEN THE SERVANTS.
UUU?
STORIES?


THE MASTER RULES THE MANSION BY DAY...
KOTSUN (CLICK)
コツ…ン
...BUT IT IS BEATRICE-SAMA THE WITCH WHO RULES BY NIGHT.
...STEPS OUT OF THE CANVAS IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT AND PROWLS THE HALLS.
...LATELY IT IS RUMORED THAT THE BEATRICE-SAMA IN THE PORTRAIT...
IN FACT...
スルッ


...THAT IS... PRETTY CREEPY...


WHEN I'VE GONE ON MY NIGHT ROUNDS, I'VE HEARD EERIE FOOT-STEPS ECHOING THROUGH THE HALLS...
SOME SERVANTS HAVE CLAIMED TO SEE FLOATING LIGHTS AND SHINING BUTTERFLIES.
...EVEN KANON-KUN...


THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF. SHE WON'T DO ANY-THING BAD TO YOU IF YOU TREAT HER WITH RESPECT.


UUU! THERE, SEE? BEATRICE IS REAL!
.....


BUT THERE WAS ONE SERVANT WHO FELL DOWN THE STAIRS, SUFFERED A TERRIBLE INJURY, AND HAD TO QUIT...
...WHO HAD BEEN RIDICULING THE THOUGHT OF BEATRICE-SAMA...
UUU.
BATTLER AND JESSICA...
...BOTH MADE FUN OF BEATRICE. THEY'LL SUFFER HER WRATH!
WHAT!? OH CRAP, I'M SORRY! FORGIVE ME, BEATRICE-SAMA!!
I-I APOLO-GIZE TOO!
UUU.
YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT SORCERY, DON'T YOU, MARIA-CHAN? CAN YOU PROTECT THEM FROM THE WITCH'S ANGER?
MAYBE THERE'S A SPECIAL CHANT OR CHARM YOU CAN USE?
UUU.
GOGO
GOGO (RUSTLE)


JARAN (JANGLE)
ииии!!
...YOU'RE GIVING THESE TO ME AND BATTLER?
UUU! THESE CHARMS WILL KEEP YOU SAFE FROM BEATRICE! SCORPIONS HAVE THE POWER TO BLOCK EVIL!


IT LOOKS LIKE SUCH A CHEAP LITTLE TRINKET...
OHH?
PUT IT ON YOUR ARM WHEN YOU WANT YOUR HEART TO BE AT PEACE! PUT IT ON THE DOORKNOB AND THE EVIL SPIRITS CAN'T GET INSIDE! UUU!
BUT IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS WITH GOOD LUCK CHARMS, NOT THE QUALITY.
THANKS, MARIA! IF THERE IS A CURSE AFTER ALL, I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT NOW!
UUU!!
TERE
BLUSH
TERE


ZAWA (RUSTLE)
ZAWA
HYUUUUU (WHOOOSH)
...THE WIND'S REALLY PICKING UP.
LET'S GET BACK TO THE GUEST-HOUSE.
THE RAIN WILL BE COM-ING SOON.
HYUUU (WHOOSH)
HYUUU (WHOOSH)
HYUAA
BE SURE TO THANK KUMA-SAWA-SAN FOR US! HER COOKIES WERE GREAT!
SEE YOU LATER. GOOD LUCK.
I'LL JUST BE GETTING BACK TO WORK...
UM... THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO ACCOM-PANY YOU TODAY.
CHIRA (PEEK)
DDO
IS IT TIME FOR YOUR SHIFT? YOU CAN GO BACK WITHOUT US, SHANNON-CHAN.


I WONDER IF THE WIND WILL TEAR OUT ALL THE ROSES ...
ZAWA CASTLE
ZAWA
WHOA!


YOU MEAN THE ONE GEORGE TIED THE STRING TO?
UUU.


UUU...THE TYPHOON WILL BLOW AWAY MARIA'S ROSE...!
!


BYUUUU
LET'S HOPE IT DOESN'T GET BLOWN AWAY! DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE IT WAS, MARIA?
UUU! OVER THERE!


LET'S SPLIT UP AND SEARCH A WIDER AREA.
...OR... NOT...
IT WAS RIGHT AROUND HERE, I THINK...
*BYUUUUUU (WHOOSH)


MARIA'S ROSE IS HERE! RIGHT AROUND HERE...!
WHAT IS IT!?
HERE!


OW, OW, OW!
UUU!!
GYUU (TUG)


HYUAAAAAAA! (ZWOOSH)

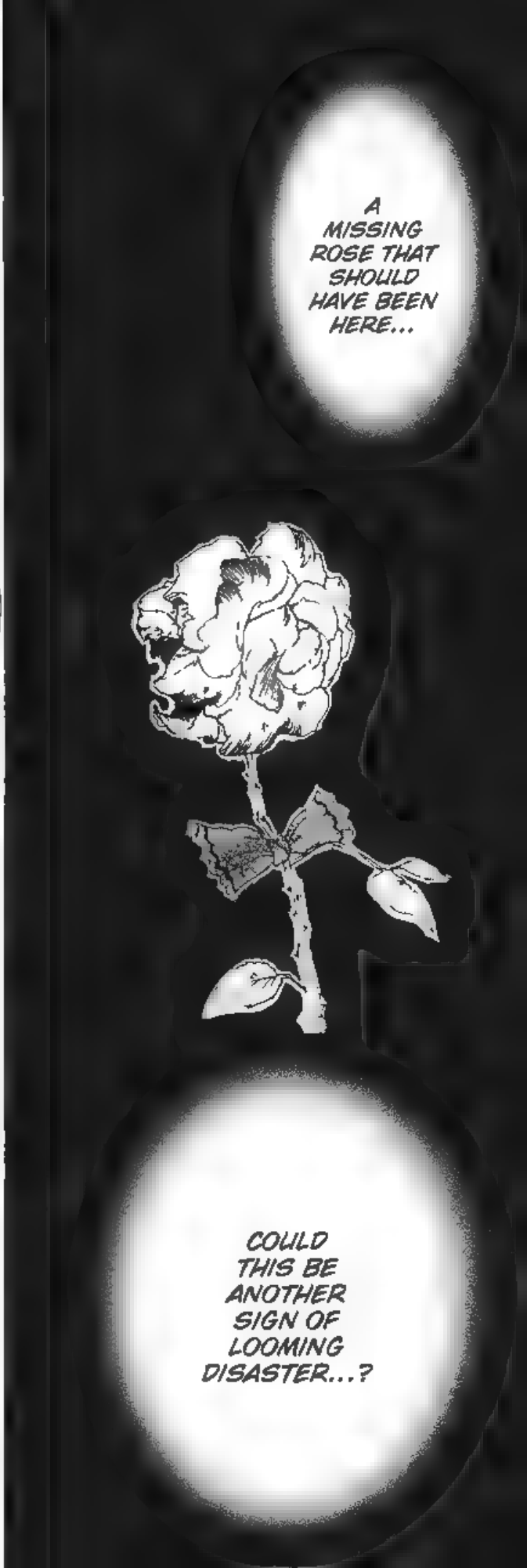



IT'S HERE.
IT MUST BE SOMEWHERE ELSE, OKAY ...?
UM, IT'S NOT HERE ...
.....?
FIND IT!
FIND IT...
MARIA'S ROSE IS RIGHT HERE!!


GONE!
GONE!!
MARIA'S ROSE!
MARIA'S ROSE IS GONE!!
UUUU!! UUUUUU !!!


BUT THE ROSE WITH THE MARKER TIED TO IT WAS RIGHT IN THE FRONT SO YOU COULD SEE IT.
IF IT'S NOT HERE, IT HAS TO BE—
IT'S HERE !!
MARIA'S ROSE WAS RIGHT HERE!!
...AW, DANG IT...
DAN (STOMP)
DAN
UUUU!
DAN
UUU !!
THERE ARE TIMES WHERE MARIA GOES CRAZY AND WON'T LISTEN TO REASON...
IT'S GONE!! GONE!!
PHAN-TOM!
IT'S THE SAME WAY SHE WAS ACTING ON THE BOAT THIS MORN-ING...
.....


WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE? LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
AUNT ROSA...
I TIED A CANDY WRAPPER AROUND A RATHER LIFELESS LOOKING ROSE, BUT NOW WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE FINDING IT.
*HYUUUU (WHOOSH)
UUU!! MARIA'S ROSE! HELP LOOK FOR IT, MAMA!
UUU!
UUU, UUU!! IT'S HERE!! LOOK FOR IT!!


A MISSING ROSE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE...
COULD THIS BE ANOTHER SIGN OF LOOMING DISASTER...?


ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT SOME-WHERE ELSE?
.....
IT'S NOT HERE.
GASA
GASA (RUSTLE)
GASA
STOP THAT WHINING.
I'M LOOK-ING FOR IT BE-CAUSE I BELIEVE YOU, AREN'T I?
UUU, UUU, UUU !!!
UUU!! IT'S HERE!! YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME EITHER!!
GIVE IT BACK!! UUU, UUU!!
UUU, UUU, UUU!! WHO PICKED MARIA'S ROSE!!?
FORGET ABOUT IT! AND STOP WHINING LIKE THAT!
THEN SOME-ONE MUST HAVE PICKED IT!
IT'S HERE, BUT IT'S NOT!! UUU!!
UUU!! IT'S HERE !!
DAN
DAN
DAN (STOMP)


I TOLD YOU TO STOP THAT "UUU" NONSENSE!!


A-AUNT ROSA...?
U...
UUUUU!!
MARIA'S ROSE! MARIA'S ROSE! UUU, UUU!!
STOP THAT AT ONCE!!
ALL OF YOUR CLASS-MATES MAKE FUN OF YOU BECAUSE OF THAT STUPID VERBAL TIC!!
I WANT YOU TO BEHAVE!!
DO (SMACK)


A-AUNT ROSA, YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HIT YOUR DAUGHTER THAT WAY...
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS, BATTLER-KUN!!!
BASH
...!
BASH (CRACK)
UUUU!!
UUUU, UUUU, UUUU!!
MARIA IS NINE YEARS OLD!! SHE'S NOT IN KINDERGARTEN!! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT HER IN CLASS!? SHE'S A TARGET OF RIDICULE!!
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND, AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT STUPID WHINING!! THIS COULD AFFECT HER ENTIRE FUTURE!!!
.....
STOP THAT! STOP SAYING THAT!!
UUUU, UUUU!!


LET'S GO BACK TO THE GUEST-HOUSE.
.....
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO WATCH, BUT IT'S BETWEEN THEM, NOT US.
SHE CAN'T GROW UP SPEAKING LIKE THAT.
HYUUUUUU (WHOOSH)
COME ON, ANIKI... WHAT DOES IT MATTER HOW SHE TALKS...!?


UUU, UUU!! UUU, UUU!!
UUU, UUU!! UUU, UUU!!
WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE GUESTHOUSE NOW, MARIA.
LET'S GO, BATTLER...


MARIA'S ROSE!!
UUU, UUU, UUU!!


UUU, UUU, UUU, UUU, UUU!!!
UUU!! I'LL LOOK! ON MY OWN!
MAMA CAN'T BE BOTHERED RIGHT NOW!!
IF YOU WANT IT, YOU CAN FIND IT YOUR-SELF!
GYU (SQUEEZE)
UU!
UUU...
UUU!
BYUOOOO WHOOSH
オオオオオオ


OUR MIRACLE FEAST, YOURS AND MINE.
NOW... LET US BEGIN.
PATATA (DRIP)
O IYA...
PATA O IYA.
...IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, BEATRICE.
HIZA SAP FLOP
THIS ISLAND HAS NOW BEEN ISOLATED FROM THE WORLD OF THE LIVING.
FOUR CHILDREN, THREE IN-LAWS, FOUR GRAND-CHILDREN.
WE HAVE PLENTY OF SACRI-FICES.
GACHA (CLICK)
PREY UPON AS MANY OF US AS YOU LIKE!
AND ME, OUR GUEST, AND THE SER-VANTS!
NONE CAN STOP THE RITUAL NOW.


NOW IS THE MOMENT TO WAGER IT ALL
FIRST, I RETURN THE USHI-ROMIYA FAMILY FORTUNE... I NOW GIVE TO YOU
...THE RING THAT SIGNI-FIES THE HEAD OF NOUSE !!


BEATRIIICE...AAAAH...
GAKL (SLUMP)
AND WHEN YOU HAVE RISEN AGAIN, I WILL LIKELY BE THE ONE TO WATCH OVER IT...
BEA-TRICE...
I WILL GIVE UP EVERY-THING I EVER CREATED FOR JUST ONE MORE MIRACLE... SHOW ME YOUR SMILE AGAIN...
ZAAAA (FSHU)

MARIO'S
ROOM


KACHI KACHI
KACHI (TICK)
KACHI
BYOOOOOO (WHOOSH)
Slow-moving Typhoon KH is expected to linger over the Kanto region well into tomorrow...
ZAZAZA (ZSHHH)
Flash flooding alerts have been issued for the following areas...
HYUUUUUU (WHOOSH)
IF IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE THIS ALL DAY TOMORROW, WE WON'T BE LEAVING ANY-TIME SOON.
THEY GROUND THE BOAT HERE IF THERE'S SO MUCH AS A CLOUD IN THE SKY.
DON'T YOU COMMUTE TO SCHOOL BY BOAT, JESSICA? DO YOU GET TO STAY HOME WHENEVER THE WEATHER IS BAD?
TRUST ME, IT'S NO FUN.
EVEN IF I GET TO SKIP SCHOOL, I STILL HAVE TO STUDY. AND IF IT STARTS RAINING WHEN I'M AT SCHOOL, I CAN'T TAKE THE BOAT HOME.


I'M SICK AND TIRED OF LIVING ON THIS ISLAND.
I WISH I COULD GET OUT OF HERE.
LET ME TELL YOU, IT REALLY SUCKS TO HAVE A BOAT BE YOUR ONLY METHOD OF REACHING THE REST OF THE WORLD.
BOSU (FLOP)
SIGH...
KON (KNOCK)
KON
PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE MANSION
DINNER HAS BEEN PREPARED.
KANON-KUN! YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OVER TO GET US!
MAN, I'M STARVING!


WHAT?
.....?
.....
IS... MARIA-SAMA WITH YOU...?


BASHA
BASHA
BASHA! (SPLASH)
BAN (SLAM)
AND YOU DIDN'T SEE HER ON THE WALK OVER HERE?
...SO I ASSUMED SHE WAS WITH THE REST OF YOU...
I DID NOT SEE HER IN THE MANSION, AND ROSA-SAMA WAS TAKING A NAP...
WE WERE ALL SURE THAT SHE'D GONE BACK TO THE MANSION WITH AUNT ROSA...!
BASHA


AUNT ROSA!!
WHERE'S MARIA!? ISN'T SHE WITH THE REST OF YOU!?
MA-RIAAA!! ANSWER ME IF YOU'RE HERE!!
BASHA
BASHA
BASHA
I'M SORRY. I WAS RACING OVER WITH MY UMBRELLA OVER MY HEAD, SO...
ZAAAA (SHH)


OHH...
OHHH...
NO. WE HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE WE LEFT THE TWO OF YOU.


RAIN OR SHINE...!
MARIA'S SO STUBBORN AND SINGLE-MINDED. IF SHE SAID SHE'D LOOK FOR SOMETHING THAT ISN'T THERE, SHE'LL JUST KEEP LOOKING...


I'M HER MOTHER! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SHE WOULD KEEP SEARCH-ING!
BUT I LET MY EMOTIONS GET THE BEST OF ME! OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE!!?
MARIAAAA!!!
BASHA (SPLASH)
BASHA
DAM-MIT...
GYU (CLENCH)
YOU MEAN SHE'S BEEN OUT IN THIS RAIN AND WIND SEARCHING FOR THAT ROSE FOR OVER AN HOUR?
ZAAAAA (FSHHH)
BASHA
BASHA
MARIAAAA!!!


BUT THAT WAS SIX WHOLE YEARS AGO!
THREE-YEAR-OLD MARIA WAS A SWEET, INNOCENT GIRL WHO TOOK EVERYTHING AT FACE VALUE.
YOU MEAN SHE'S STILL THAT WAY...
...NOW THAT SHE'S NINE!?
ANSWER IF YOU CAN HEAR US! MARIAAA!
MARIA-CHAN!?
MARIAAAA!!


.....
uuu...
MARIAAAA!


I'M GLAD... I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT ...
UUU... MAMA ...?
COULDN'T FIND... MARIA'S ROSE... UUU...
MAMA WILL HELP YOU FIND IT LATER ...
WE'LL JUST FORGET ABOUT IT TODAY... OKAY?
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SUCH A BAD MAMA...
WHEW...
GYU! (SQUEEZE)


GORO
GORO
GORO (RUMBLE)
PURU (SHAKE)
PURU
PURU
uuu.
GACHA (CLICK)
LET'S HAVE DINNER. TAKE YOUR SEATS, EVERY-ONE.
uuu.
GOT TO RUB THE WATER OFF SO YOU DON'T CATCH A COLD.
GIRLS SHOULDN'T LET THEIR BODIES CATCH CHILL.


I URGED HIM TO ATTEND TONIGHT'S DINNER, IMPLORING HIM AS A FRIEND, BUT TO NO AVAIL...
THAT STUDY IS THE ENTIRETY OF KINZOU-SAN'S WORLD THESE DAYS.
WHERE IS GRAND-FATHER, NANJOU-SENSEI...?
MARIA DOESN'T HAVE AN UMBREL-LA.
I BORROWED IT.
UU!
BAT-TLER'S SOAK-ING WET!
BWA-CHOO!
I WAS RUNNING AROUND OUTSIDE LOOKING FOR YOU!
AND IT TURNS OUT YOU HAD AN UMBRELLA THE ENTIRE TIME.
UUU.


MAKE SURE YOU THANK THEM PROPERLY.
WHO -EN" YOU AN UM-BRELLA?
SHE'S NOT HERE! UUU!
UUU I CAN'T SAY THANKS!
WHO GAVE YOU "HE UM-BRELLA?
UUU.
IT WAS BEATRICE!


BEATRICE GAVE IT TO ME.
.....
.....HUH?
...ISN'T BEA-TRICE ...
...THE WITCH OF THE ISLAND?
UUU! BEATRICE!

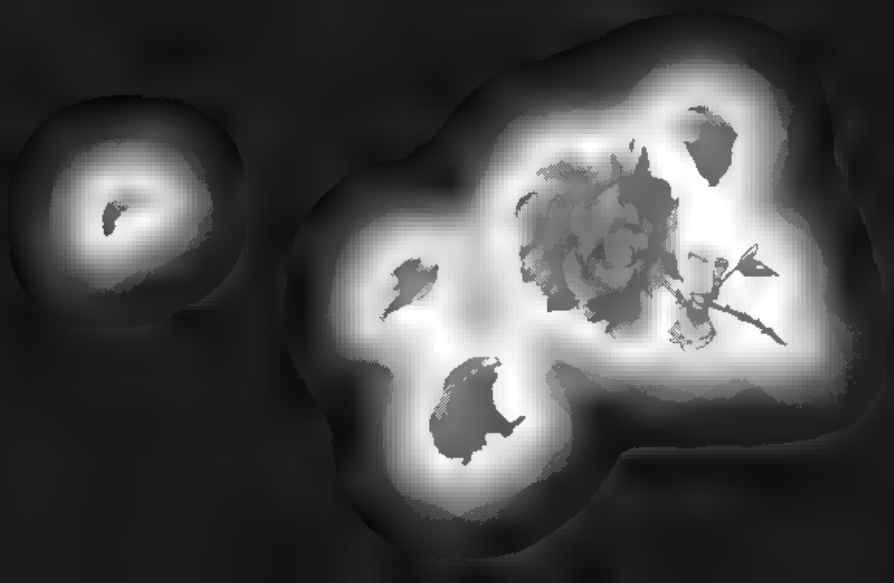

...WELL, THAT CLEARLY CAN'T BE TRUE.
WHO GAVE MARIA THAT UMBRELLA?
AND WE WENT STRAIGHT FROM THERE BACK TO THE DINING ROOM ...
AFTER YOU UP AND LEFT, THE REST OF US CONTINUED OUR... "FRIENDLY" CHAT.
IT WASN'T US.
ALL TO-GETHER EXCEPT FOR NATSUHI-NEESAN.
WE WERE ALL TOGETHER UNTIL KRAUSS-NIISAN AND GENJI-SAN WENT TO CALL FATHER TO DINNER.
I'VE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
THE REST OF US WERE PREPARING THE GUEST ROOMS ON NATSUHI-SAMA'S ORDERS.
MY HEADACHE GREW TOO PAINFUL TO BEAR, SO I LAID DOWN IN MY ROOM TO REST.


FORGIVE ME FOR MY LACK OF ATTENTION...
I WAS IN THE KITCHEN, PREPARING THE DINNER.
YES.
KUMASAWA-SAN AND KANON-KUN AND I WERE TOGETHER...
I JUST ASSUMED MARIA WENT BACK TO THE MANSION WITH AUNT ROSA...
WE WERE WATCHING TV IN THE GUEST-HOUSE THE ENTIRE TIME...
KINZOU-SAN AND I BEGAN PLAYING CHESS IN THE STUDY AROUND THE TIME THE RAIN STARTED.
BESIDES, I WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN HER AN UMBRELLA. I'D HAVE BROUGHT HER INSIDE MYSELF.
AND IT CERTAINLY WASN'T ME.


THEN... GENJI-SAN?
LISTEN, I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A CRIMINAL. I JUST WANT TO KNOW!
I JUST WANT TO THANK WHOEVER DID THIS FOR MY DAUGHTER! WHY WON'T YOU COME FORWARD AND ADMIT IT!?
WHO WAS IT?
WHO GAVE MARIA THAT UMBRELLA?
UUU.
I TOLD YOU! BEATRICE!


KA
SPLASH
BEATRICE
GAVE IT
TO ME.

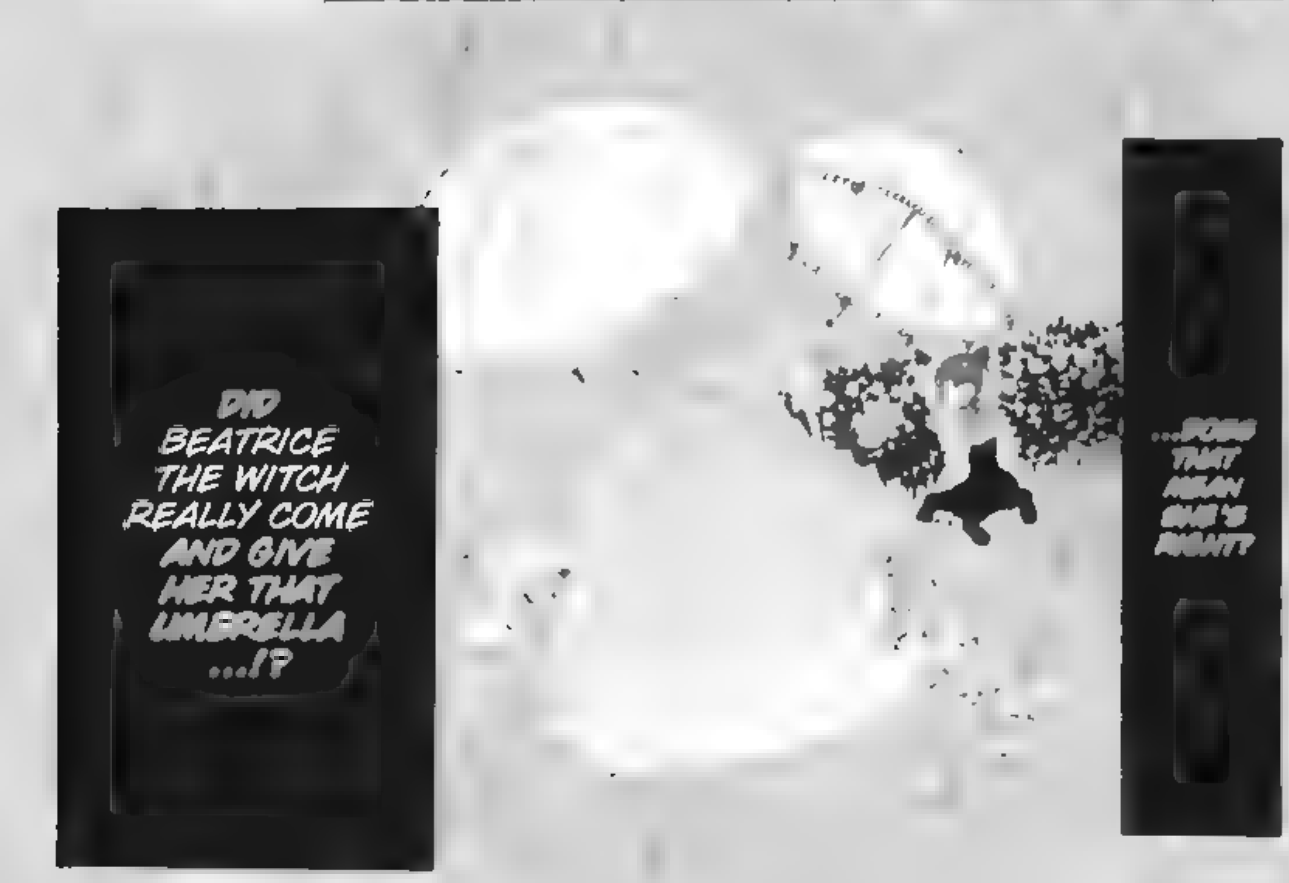

THERE ARE SPOOKY STORIES TOLD AMONG THE SERVANTS ABOUT BEATRICE-SAMA.
GORO (RUMBLE)
IT IS RUMORED THAT SHE STEPS OUT OF THE CANVAS...
...AND PROWLS THE HALLS IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT.
ARE YOU TELLING ME BEATRICE ACTUALLY SHOWED UP...
...AND GAVE MARIA HER UMBRELLA...!?




Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch

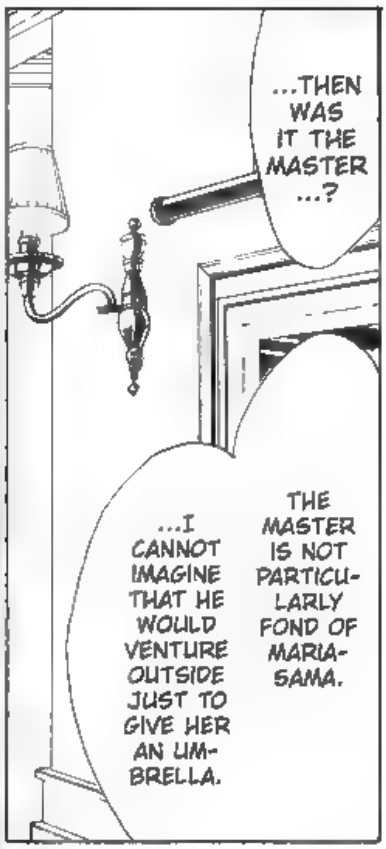

...WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE...?
BEATRICE GAVE MARIA THE UMBRELLA!
UUUU!


SHE'S JUST NOT CAPABLE OF PLAYING PRANKS OR MAKING UP LIES.
MARIA'S FOREMOST FEATURE IS THAT SHE'S HONEST TO A FAULT.


DID BEATRICE THE WITCH REALLY COME AND GIVE HER THAT UMBRELLA ...!?
...DOES THAT MEAN SHE'S RIGHT?


I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT I DID NOT GIVE MARIA-SAMA THAT UMBRELLA.
I HAD THOUGHT SHE WAS WITH BATTLER-SAMA AND THE OTHERS IN THE GUEST-HOUSE.
... NEITHER DID I.


HO HO HO...
OH MY.
DOES THAT MEAN IT REALLY WAS BEATRICE-SAMA?


...THEN WAS IT THE MASTER ...?
THE MASTER IS NOT PARTICU-LARLY FOND OF MARIA-SAMA.
...I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT HE WOULD VENTURE OUTSIDE JUST TO GIVE HER AN UM-BRELLA.




GENJI-SAN?
THE MAIDS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING. PLEASE DON'T DELAY THEM LIKE THIS.
...!
DON'T BOSS US AROUND!
COME NOW, EVERYONE. THE DINNER WILL BE RUINED IF WE DO NOT SERVE IT PROMPTLY.
PAN (CLAP)
PAN
BACK TO WORK AT ONCE, IF YOU PLEASE.
(ZAAAAAA (FSHH)
WE'LL JUST BE GOING, THEN..
HAS THE MASTER'S RITUAL... ALREADY BEGUN...?
...GENJI-SAMA...
...DO YOU THINK BEATRICE-SAMA... HAS TRULY RETURNED?


BUT NEITHER THAT NOR THE BEGINNING OF THE RITUAL HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH FURNITURE LIKE US...
WE OWE OUR LORD A DEBT, AND WE WILL DO NAUGHT BUT STRIVE TO REPAY IT.
...IF SHE HAS INDEED RETURNED, SHE WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE MASTER OF HER OWN VOLITION.


...AS FURNI-TURE.
THAT IS OUR DUTY...
YES, SIR...

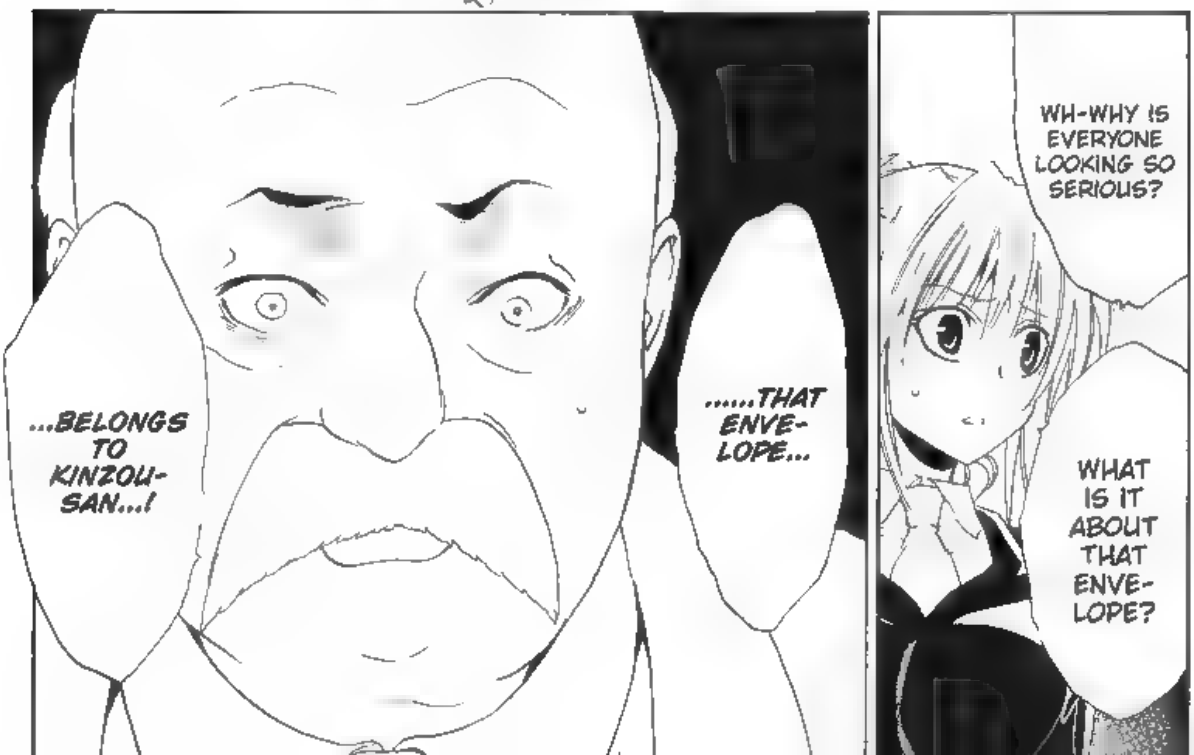

KACHA (CLINK)
YEP, THAT'S IT.
IS THAT THE END OF THE DINNER, GEORGE-ONIICHAN?


MARIA WILL READ THE LETTER!
THEN I'LL READ THE LETTER!




# Chapter 3: Letter from a Witch


ZAA (SWISH)
...HUH?


WH-WHY IS EVERYONE LOOKING SO SERIOUS?
WHAT IS IT ABOUT THAT ENVE-LOPE?
.....THAT ENVE-LOPE...
...BELONGS TO KINZOU-SAN...!


LET'S NOT MAKE ANY BROAD STATEMENTS BASED ON SPECULATION, DR. NANJOU.
THE ENVELOPE PRINTED WITH THE FAMILY CREST... THE SEAL STAMPED WITH THE HEAD OF HOUSE'S RING...
ANYONE WHO'S RECEIVED A LETTER FROM DAD...
...COULD HAVE A FAKE ENVELOPE AND SEAL CREATED TO FOOL OTHERS.
THIS IS INDEED A LETTER FROM KINZOU-SAN...


IT COULD LOOK ABSOLUTELY IDENTICAL TO FATHER'S ENVELOPES, BUT YOU CAN'T PROVE IT'S REAL.
HE'S RIGHT.
I AGREE.


OUR PARENTS ARE TERRIFIED.


...MARIA...
...WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT...?


THEY'RE AFRAID THAT THIS LETTER FROM GRANDDAD IS REAL...
...AND THAT IT MIGHT CONTAIN BAD NEWS ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL STAKES IN THE FAMILY INHERITANCE.


BEATRICE GAVE IT TO ME WITH THE UMBRELLA!
UUU!


MARIA IS THE WITCH'S ME...
MES...
MESSENGER!
SHE SAID TO READ IT TO EVERYONE AFTER WE ATE DINNER!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT. CAN'T DENY I'M MIGHTY CURIOUS ABOUT THIS LETTER... READ IT OUT, MARIA-CHAN.
...AFTER WE'VE HEARD THEM FOR OUR-SELVES.
WHAT'S THE HARM? WHOEVER WROTE IT, WE CAN JUDGE THE CON-TENTS...
THAT IS A SUS-PICIOUS LETTER GIVEN TO YOU BY A COMPLETE STRANGER!
IT IS NOT WORTH READ-ING!
HERE GOES.
UUU.

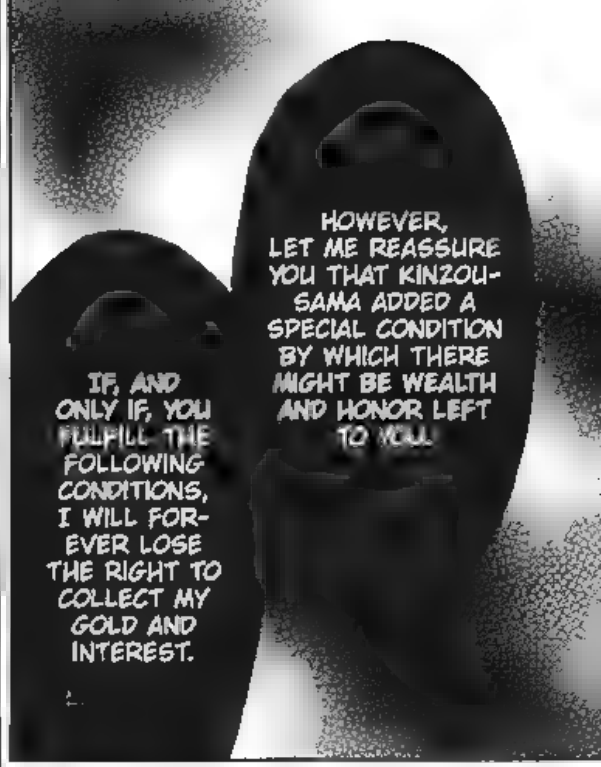

WELCOME TO ROKKENJIMA...
...MEMBERS OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.
MY NAME IS BEATRICE.
I AM THE FAMILY ALCHEMIST, WORKING AT KINZOU-SAMA'S REQUEST.


I HAVE SERVED MY CONTRACT FOR MANY YEARS, AND AS OF TODAY, KINZOU-SAMA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT MY PERIOD OF SERVICE HAS CONCLUDED.
THEREFORE, I BEG YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT MY EMPLOYMENT AS THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY'S ALCHEMIST IS OVER, EFFECTIVE NOW.
BEATRICE, THE FAMILY ALCHEMIST!?
ZAWA ZAWA
WELL, WHO-EVER IT IS...
...I DON'T THINK MUCH OF THIS STUPID PRANK!


THOSE CONDITIONS ARE...
I, BEATRICE, OFFERED KINZOU-SAMA AN INCREDIBLE SUM OF GOLD WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS.
IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT I MUST OFFER A PARTIAL EXPLA-NATION OF MY SERVICES.


AND AS INTEREST, I WILL RECEIVE THE ENTIRETY OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.
... AT THE COMPLE-TION OF THE CONTRACT, ALL OF THE GOLD WILL BE RETURNED.
UPON HEARING THIS, YOU MIGHT WONDER AND LAMENT AT HOW KINZOU-SAMA CAN BE SUCH A COLD AND UNFEELING MAN.
YOU MEAN WE LOSE ALL THE GOLD AND INHERI-TANCE!?
TH-THAT'S CRAZY!


...IF SOMEONE IS ABLE TO REVEAL THE LOCATION OF THE HIDDEN GOLD...
...BEATRICE WILL FOREVER LOSE THAT RIGHT.


HOWEVER, LET ME REASSURE YOU THAT KINZOU-SAMA ADDED A SPECIAL CONDITION BY WHICH THERE MIGHT BE WEALTH AND HONOR LEFT TO YOU.
IF, AND ONLY IF, YOU FULFILL THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS, I WILL FOR-EVER LOSE THE RIGHT TO COLLECT MY GOLD AND INTEREST.


SPECIAL CONDITION? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?


THE SPECIAL CONDI-TION:
UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE CONTRACT, BEATRICE HAS THE RIGHT TO COLLECT HER GOLD AND INTEREST.
HOW-EVER...


GATA
GATA
GATA (CLATTER)
...BUT IF EVEN A SINGLE ONE OF YOU SUCCESSFULLY FULFILLS THE SPECIAL CONDITION, EVERYTHING WILL BE RETURNED, INCLUDING WHAT WAS ALREADY COLLECTED.
COLLECTION OF INTEREST BEGINS NOW...
AS THE FIRST STEP OF THE COLLECTION PROCESS, THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY RING, WHICH DENOTES THE HEAD OF THE USHIROMIYA HOUSEHOLD, HAS ALREADY BEEN CLAIMED.
EXAMINE THE WAX SEAL ON THIS ENVELOPE FOR PROOF OF THIS.
...THIS CANNOT BE!
BAN (WHAM)
AS THE ACTING HEAD OF HOUSE, I CONTROL THE ENTIRE FAMILY FORTUNE!!
DAD WOULD NEVER LET THAT RING GO!! THERE CANNOT BE A LEGENDARY PILE OF GOLD!!
THERE IS NO GOLD!!!


WOULDN'T THAT MAKE ANY MONEY NOT UNDER YOUR CONTROL...
...BEATRICE'S HIDDEN TREASURE?
...!


KINZOU-SAMA HAS ALREADY REVEALED THE HIDING PLACE OF THE GOLD IN THAT EPITAPH BELOW MY PORTRAIT.
THE CONDITION MAY BE FULFILLED BY ANYONE WHO CAN READ THE EPITAPH...
...SO IF WE SOLVE THE EPITAPH AND FIND THE GOLD, SHE'LL STOP COLLECTING HER INTEREST...
...AND WHOEVER DISCOVERS THE GOLD WILL RECOVER WHATEVER IS TAKEN.
.....
...AND THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE EVERYTHING THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY HAS...!?
AND NOW, ENJOY A BATTLE OF WITS WITH KINZOU-SAMA TONIGHT.
MY GOD...


I PRAY THAT YOU FIND THIS EVENING BOTH INTELLEC-TUAL AND REFINED.
IT'S A NO-HOLDS-BARRED RACE FOR THE GOLD, SENIORITY BE DAMNED!!!
YOURS, GOLDEN BEATRICE.


FATHER!!!
BAM
BAM
DON
DON
WE KNOW YOU CAN HEAR US!! I DEMAND AN EXPLA-NATION!!!
IS EVERY-THING IN THAT LETTER TRUE!!?
HOW COULD YOU MAKE SUCH AN AGREE-MENT!?


...WHAT SHALL I DO, MASTER?
DON
DON WHAM!
COME OUT AND TALK TO US, FATHER!!!

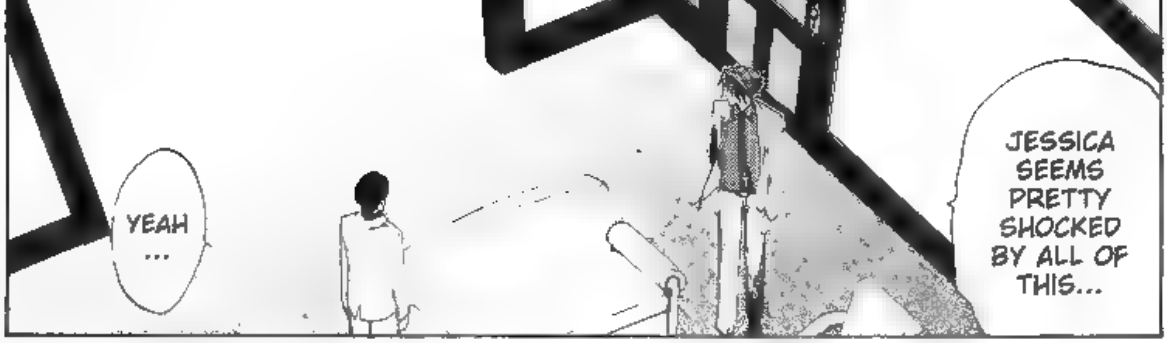

HA HA...
SO THE GAME HAS BEGUN, BEATRICE ...
IGNORE THEM.
THE ONLY TIME I LEAVE THIS ROOM IS WHEN BEATRICE IS REVIVED OR I AM CHOSEN AS A SACRIFICE.


IF WE ARE LUCKY, WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN THE GOLDEN LAND.
GENJI, YOU HAVE SERVED ME LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE HERE...AND YOU ARE MY FRIEND.
I THANK YOU.
...AS YOU SAY, MY LORD.


ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU THE POWER OF A MIRACLE ONCE AGAIN...!
SO, BEA-TRICE...
...LET US ENJOY THIS NIGHT TO THE FULLEST.
KACHI (CLINCK)


AND THE SAME STATEMENT APPLIES TO YOU!
SHARE IT? LAUGH-ABLE.
I KNOW WHAT A GREEDY AND CONTEMPTIBLE LOT YOU ARE. WHOEVER FINDS THE GOLD WILL KEEP IT A SECRET TO HOARD IT FOR HIM OR HERSELF.
LISTEN! NO SNEAK-ING AROUND! IF ONE OF US FINDS THE GOLD, WE ALL SHARE IT!
KA (TOK)
KA
KA
WE'LL SPLIT UP THE INHERI-TANCE...
ADVANCE PAYMENT, IN CASH, WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.


I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE DISGUSTED WITH OUR PARENTS!
LISTEN, JESSICA-CHAN... I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR A TEENAGER TO UNDERSTAND, BUT GETTING A SHARE OF THE MONEY ISN'T JUST ABOUT GREED.
THEY HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS, EMPLOYEES, AND SERVANTS TO TAKE CARE OF. SOMETIMES THERE ARE MOMENTS WHERE YOU HAVE TO FIGHT FOR YOUR STAKE...
GACHA (CLICK)
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! I CAN'T BELIEVE THE WAY THEY ARGUE ABOUT THIS...
DON (SHOVE)
PLEASE, DON'T LET THIS TURN YOU AGAINST THEM...
I KNOW THAT!
JUST... LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A WHILE!!


YEAH ...
JESSICA SEEMS PRETTY SHOCKED BY ALL OF THIS...


...BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY A VERY DELICATE, PURE-HEARTED GIRL.
SHE LIKES TO ACT ROUGH AND EDGY...


UUU, UUU... NO ONE BELIEVES MARIA! I ACTUALLY DID MEET BEATRICE...!
HIC!
UUU!
IT'S NO WONDER THE POOR KID'S TRAUMA-TIZED...
UUU.


SHE'S STILL SULKING AND CRYING IN FRONT OF THE PORTRAIT ...
"THERE'S NO WITCH! WHO DID YOU ACTUALLY SEE?" AND SO ON...
OUR PARENTS COULDN'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF GRANDDAD, SO THEY TURNED ON POOR MARIA INSTEAD.


WHERE'S MARIA-CHAN...?




...THIS LETTER'S FAULT...
AND IT'S ALL ...
KASA (RUSTLE)
"GOLDEN BEATRICE"... WHO THE HELL IS SHE ANYWAY...?
IT'S STIRRED UP ALL THOSE DARK EMOTIONS...
KA
KA (CLICK)
KA
YOU MUST, DEAR!
ACT LIKE THE FUTURE HEAD OF THE FAMILY AND REFUSE THOSE PREPOSTEROUS DEMANDS YOUR BROTHER AND SISTERS ARE MAKING!
THERE'S NO REASON TO PAY ANY HEED TO THE NONSENSE WRITTEN BY THIS "BEATRICE" OR WHATEVER SHE CLAIMS HER NAME IS!


HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TOLD ME OVER THE YEARS!?
THE LEGENDARY GOLD IS ALL A MYTH!
NO ONE IS GOING TO FIND SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T EXIST!
YOUR CLAIM AS HEIR IS ROCK SOLID!
GACHI CLICK
GACHI
NATSUHI.
...COME IN HERE.
I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
GAKIN (CLINK)

……?


BUT...
BUT... THIS IS...


...I SEARCHED FAR AND WIDE TO FIND THIS.
OH MY GOOD-NESS!!


IT'S A SOLID GOLD INGOT.
BEATRICE'S GOLD IS REAL.
THIS IS THE SOLE INGOT DAD GAVE TO INVESTORS TO EARN THEIR TRUST...AND THOUSANDS MORE OF THESE ARE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE STILL.
IT'S ULTRAPURE GOLD, MINTED FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE.
WITHOUT THIS, NOBODY WOULD HAVE GIVEN A SECOND THOUGHT TO THE SO-CALLED LEGEND OF THE GOLD.
STAMPED WITH THE SEAL OF THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE...!!


WHY... WHY DID YOU NEVER... REVEAL ANY OF THIS... TO ME?
AM I...SO UNWORTHY... OF YOUR TRUST?
ZURU (SLIDE)


TAKE MY ADVICE. GET SOME REST.
YOU DON'T WANT THIS TO AFFECT YOUR HEADACHES.
KA (CLICK)
...I KEPT YOU OUT OF THE LOOP BECAUSE I WAS THINKING OF YOU.


AM I NOT ALLOWED TO STAND AT YOUR SIDE AND BE A SOURCE OF STRENGTH IN ALL OF THIS!?
IS THAT IT!!?

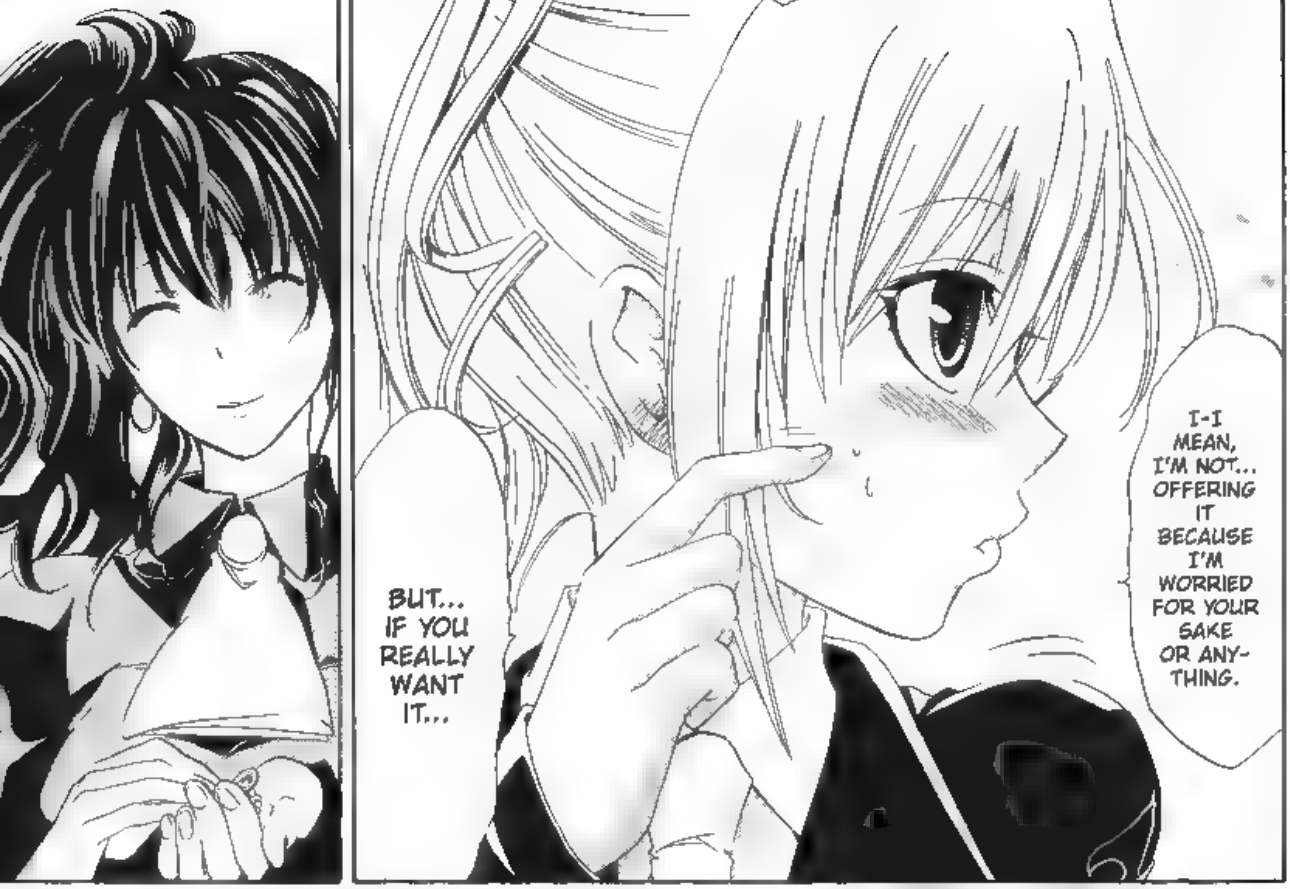

ZUKUN
ZUKUN
ZUKUN
ZAAAAAA (FSHH)
I JUST ...
...DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO THINK... DON'T KNOW HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO LIVE...
EVER SINCE I MARRIED INTO THIS FAMILY, I'VE BEEN INSULTED, SHUNNED, AND MOCKED..
...BUT I TRIED MY BEST TO SUPPORT MY HUSBAND AND BE THE BEST WIFE AND MOTHER I COULD POSSIBLY BE.
ZUKUN
ZUKUN
ZUKUN
BUT IT'S AS THOUGH ALL OF THAT HARD WORK HAS BEEN DENIED, IGNORED...
KYU (SQUEEZE)


KA (CLICK)
JESSICA...
...MOM?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHY DON'T YOU TURN ON THE LIGHTS?
...I'M SORRY, JESSICA. YOUR MOTHER'S GOT A TERRIBLE HEADACHE. CAN YOU LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A BIT?
UMM...
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD SOME HEAVY DISCUSSIONS.
IS YOUR HEADACHE BAD? SHOULD I...GET SOME MEDICINE FOR YOU...?
THANK YOU, DEAR.
BUT I'LL MANAGE.
PLEASE, GIVE ME SOME ALONE TIME.


YOU'RE... FIGHTING FOR US IN THIS...
BOSO (MUTTER)
GEORGE-NIISAN WAS RIGHT...
?
UM, HEY! SO, I GOT THIS CHARM TODAY.
IT'S KIND OF CHEAP LOOKING, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW USEFUL IT'LL ACTUALLY TURN OUT TO BE, BUT...
JARAN (JANGLE)
...APPARENTLY YOU CAN HANG IT FROM THE DOORKNOB...
THERE'S NO POINT TO ME HOLDING ONTO IT...SO I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!


...THANK YOU, JESSICA.


I'LL TREASURE IT.
IN RETURN, I'LL GIVE YOU A SPECIAL CHARM THAT WAS MY TREASURE WHEN I WAS A GIRL.


I-I MEAN, I'M NOT... OFFERING IT BECAUSE I'M WORRIED FOR YOUR SAKE OR ANY-THING.
BUT... IF YOU REALLY WANT IT...


WELL, I NEED MY REST.
DON'T STAY UP UNTIL ALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT, JESSICA.
I WON'T...


ZAAAAA (FSHHH)
KACHI カチ
KACHI カチ
KACHI (CLICK)


WHO IS SHE?
SO THIS "BEATRICE" GAVE MARIA THAT UMBRELLA AND LETTER IN THE RAIN...
ZAAAAA (FSHH)


SHE'S MORE LIKELY AN AGENT HIRED BY GRANDDAD TO TORMENT OUR PARENTS FOR TRYING TO PUSH THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INHERITANCE WITHOUT HIS SAY-SO...
I CAN'T IMAGINE SHE'S AN ACTUAL WITCH, AS MARIA INSISTS.


OH... KYRIE-SAN.
WHAT'S WRONG, BATTLER-KUN? THINKING HARD?
KA, (CLICK)


I COULD SQUEEZE THOSE THINGS ALL DAY!
I WAS JUST IMAGINING WHO MIGHT HAVE SENT THAT LETTER. WAS IT REALLY A LADY WITH HUGE COW TITS LIKE IN THE PORTRAIT?
YES, THAT STRANGE LETTER HAS THE REST OF US IN AN UPROAR TOO.
WE'RE TAKING A SMALL BREAK TO COOL OUR HEADS...BUT I THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT OF ARGUING.


IF SHE IS WHO SHE CLAIMS...
...SHE'S A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER THAT NONE OF US KNEW ABOUT UNTIL TODAY
AND SHE KNOWS ABOUT GRAND-FATHER'S HIDDEN GOLD...
...AND HE TRUSTS HER ENOUGH TO GIVE HER HIS RING.


...WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS "BEATRICE" IS?


BATTLER-KUN...
...DO YOU THINK THERE REALLY IS A PERSON NAMED BEATRICE?
.....
.....?
HA!
HA!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
ZAZAAAA-
PSHHH
MAYBE THAT'S JUST WHAT GRANDDAD'S PROXY IS GOING BY...
WHO KNOWS? WHAT IF IT'S A FAKE NAME?


THERE ARE EIGHTEEN PEOPLE ON ROKKENJIMA RIGHT NOW.
DO YOU THINK THERE COULD BE A NINETEENTH?


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NINE-TEENTH ...?
EXACTLY WHAT I SAID. NONE OF THE EIGHTEEN OF US WILL ADMIT TO GIVING MARIA-CHAN THAT UMBRELLA...
...SO WOULDN'T IT BE APPROPRIATE TO ASSUME THAT THERE MUST BE A NINETEENTH PERSON ON THE ISLAND?
WELL... I SUPPOSE SO.
THERE ARE NO SHIPS COMING OR GOING IN THIS STORM.
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE ISLAND THE MOMENT THE RAIN STARTED, WHICH MEANS SHE'S STILL HERE...
SHE HAS TO BE HIDING SOMEWHERE OUT OF THE RAIN...WITH-OUT BEING SEEN BY THE REST OF US.
THEN WHERE IS THAT PERSON NOW?


WELL, WE CERTAINLY HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE ELSE, EITHER HERE OR IN THE GUESTHOUSE.
BUT ON AN ISLAND THIS SIZE, I'M SURE THERE ARE OTHER PLACES TO TAKE SHELTER FROM THE RAIN...
IF BEATRICE IS WHO SHE SAYS SHE IS, SHE SHOULD BE AN HONORED GUEST.
THERE'S NO WAY GRANDFATHER WOULD REFUSE TO INVITE HER IN.
SO ARE YOU SAYING THAT THERE DOESN'T NEED TO BE A NINETEENTH PERSON...
...IF ONE OF THE REST OF US IS PRETENDING TO BE THIS "BEATRICE"?
GORO (RUMBLE)


YES, NORMALLY, THAT WOULD BE A LEGITIMATE POSSIBILITY.
THERE COULD BE A REASON FOR THIS EXTRA PERSON TO STAY HIDDEN...
BUT IF YOU FLIP OVER THE CHESS-BOARD...
...YOU CAN STATE WITH ALMOST ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT THERE CANNOT BE A NINETEENTH PERSON.
"FLIPPING OVER THE CHESS-BOARD" IS A CATCH-PHRASE OF KYRIE-SAN'S.
WHEN ONE IS STUCK IN A CHESS GAME, TURNING THE BOARD AROUND AND SEEING IT FROM THE ENEMY'S PERSPECTIVE CAN PROVIDE A NEW ANSWER.
IT'S HER WAY OF SAYING, "THINK ABOUT IT FROM THE OPPONENT'S POINT OF VIEW."

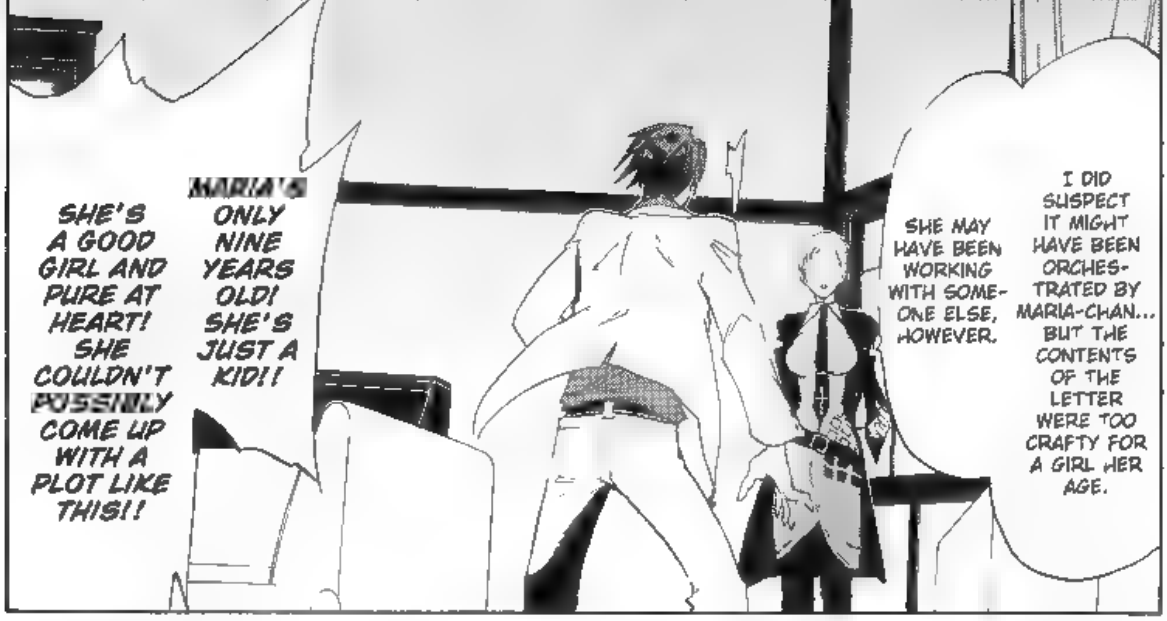

READY?
ASSUMING "BEATRICE" IS THE NINETEENTH PERSON HERE...
SO, KYRIE-SAN...
...THIS PERSON MUST HAVE HAD A REASON TO LAND ON THE ISLAND AND STAY HIDDEN.
SO WHY SHOW HERSELF TO MARIA-CHAN AND HAND OVER THAT LETTER?
...WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU FLIP OVER THE CHESSBOARD?
...TO MAKE YOUNG, IMPRESSIONABLE MARIA HER PERSONAL MESSENGER?


THERE'S NO REASON TO SNEAK ABOUT, THEN HAND DELIVER SUCH A LETTER.
WHY WOULD SHE NEED A MES-SENGER?
LETTERS CAN BE SENT THROUGH THE MAIL. COPIES COULD BE SENT TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY TO ENSURE THE MESSAGE GETS ACROSS.

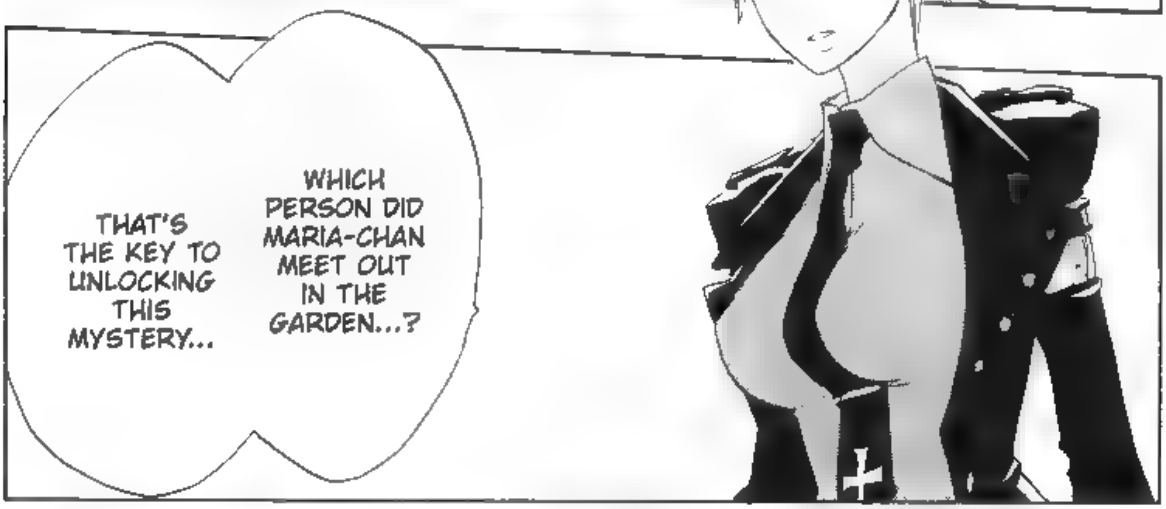

IN FACT, IF A NINETEENTH PERSON WANTED TO REVEAL HER EXISTENCE, SHE COULD SIMPLY SHOW HERSELF.
YET SHE ONLY APPEARED TO MARIA-CHAN.
AND NOW, AFTER HINTING AT HER PRESENCE THROUGH THIS LETTER, SHE GOES BACK TO HIDING...
NOW WE FLIP OVER THE CHESS-BOARD...
PAA
(SNAP)


DOES SHE WANT TO BE SEEN OR NOT?
EITHER WAY, THE ACTIONS OF THIS EXTRA PERSON ARE CONTRADIC-TORY.
THE ONLY LOGICAL EXPLA-NATION IS THAT BEATRICE IS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT AS ONE OF THE EIGHTEEN.
SOME-ONE WHO WANTS TO STAY HIDDEN ISN'T GOING TO REVEAL HER EXIS-TENCE...
...AND SOMEONE WHO DOES WANT TO SHOW HER-SELF IS GOING TO GO AHEAD AND DO SO RATHER THAN HANDING OVER A LETTER...


BECAUSE BEATRICE IS ONE OF THE EIGHTEEN OF US.
I KNOW THERE ARE HOLES IN MY LOGIC, BUT I THINK MY CONCLUSION IS RIGHT ON.
OUR CULPRIT'S GOAL MAY STILL BE UNKNOWN, BUT THEY'RE SNEAKING ABOUT AMONG THE GROUP...
...SPINNING THIS FANTASTICAL YARN ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON IN OUR MIDST.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVEN'T SEEN A NINETEENTH PERSON APPEAR.
GORO
GOR... CRUMB...


I DID SUSPECT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ORCHESTRATED BY MARIA-CHAN... BUT THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER WERE TOO CRAFTY FOR A GIRL HER AGE.
SHE MAY HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH SOMEONE ELSE, HOWEVER.
MARIA'S ONLY NINE YEARS OLD! SHE'S JUST A KID!!
SHE'S A GOOD GIRL AND PURE AT HEART! SHE COULDN'T POSSIBLY COME UP WITH A PLOT LIKE THIS!!


IT WOULDN'T BE TOO HARD FOR A WOMAN TO DISGUISE HERSELF.
WHICH IS JUST THE POINT. IF SOMEONE CAME TO HER PRETENDING TO BE THAT WITCH, SHE'D GOBBLE IT UP WITH A SPOON, WOULDN'T SHE?


WHICH PERSON DID MARIA-CHAN MEET OUT IN THE GARDEN...?
THAT'S THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THIS MYSTERY...

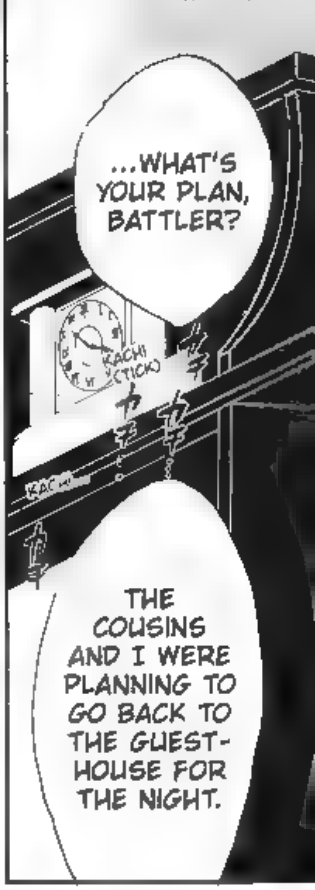

ZOWA (SHIVER)


I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THIS TOPIC IS TURNING ...
IF BEATRICE IS ONE OF THE EIGHTEEN OF US...
...THEN ONE OF US IS PRETENDING TO BE SOMEONE ELSE AND USING MARIA FOR HIS OR HER OWN PURPOSES...BUT WHAT WOULD THAT BE!?


...AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.
I DON'T CARE MUCH ABOUT THIS INHERITANCE SQUABBLE, BUT DOESN'T THE WHOLE CLASSIC "MANSION MYSTERY" SITUATION TICKLE YOUR FANCY?
KUSU (GIGGLE)
くすくす
KUSU
IT GETS MY INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY RACING!
TALK ABOUT TOUGH-MINDED!
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, KYRIE-SAN!
I'VE KNOWN HER SINCE BEFORE SHE MARRIED DAD...AND IT STILL SURPRISES ME HOW SMART SHE IS...


ARE YOU TRADING INSULTS ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK?
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?
DON'T WORRY. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOOD FOR.
I'M SERIOUS.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HANDLE DAD'S REINS THE WAY YOU DO.
CAN'T YOU HAVE THE HEART TO GREET ME WITH A "GOOD EVENING, FATHER. SHALL I GIVE YOU A BACKRUB?" OR TWO?
I'M TIRED OUT FROM OUR FRIENDLY SIBLING CONFERENCE.
HEH.
TSUKA (STRIDE)
TSUKA
DAD...
NATSUHI-NEESAN SAYS SHE'S ARRANGED ROOMS FOR US IN THE MANSION. WE CAN CHOOSE WHERE TO STAY WHEN WE SPLIT UP FOR THE NIGHT.
...GOD, THIS RAIN IS AWFUL. DON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE GOING BACK TO THE GUEST-HOUSE.
HEH.
I DON'T RUB NOTHIN' BUT THE BOOBS OF CUTE GIRLS.


...I SEE.


...WHAT'S YOUR PLAN, BATTLER?
KACHI (TICK)
THE COUSINS AND I WERE PLANNING TO GO BACK TO THE GUEST-HOUSE FOR THE NIGHT.




...I WAS HOPING THAT ONCE THE ADULTS WERE DONE TALKING, WE COULD HAVE A FAMILY CHAT OF OUR OWN... ASSUMING YOU WERE STILL AWAKE.
.....WELL...
...WHAT'S WRONG?


...PLEASE.
I'LL TELL YOU LATER... JUST NOT NOW.
GORO (RUMBLE)
.....ABOUT WHAT?


THIS AIN'T LIKE YOU.
WE'RE ALL HERE RIGHT NOW, AREN'T WE?
...CAN'T YOU JUST SAY IT HERE?
DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.
TRUST ME, THIS IS A LOT HARDER FOR ME THAN FOR YOU...
GASHI (RUB)
GASHI
GOKU (GULP)
—I HAVE...
...A FEEL-ING...


...I'M GOING TO BE MURDERED TONIGHT.


I HAD NO IDEA WHAT ANYTHING MEANT YET.
ZUIZUNN DADUMM
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MY DAD MEANT, WHO BEATRICE WAS...
GORO (RUMBLE)
...OR THAT THE LET-TER...
GORO
GORO
...WAS NOTH-ING MORE THAN AN INVITA-TION TO TRAG-EDY...
GORO
GORO
GO

Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: *Legend of the Golden Witch*

## *ABOUT* UMINEKO WHEN THEY CRY *EPISODE 1: LEGEND OF THE GOLDEN WITCH*

# *DOES THE WITCH EXIST OR NOT?*

## *RYUKISHI07, CREATOR AND SUPERVISOR*

HELLO, I AM RYUKISHI07.

IT BRINGS ME GREAT JOY TO PRESENT TO YOU ANOTHER STORY, GOING FROM THE WORLD OF *HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY* TO THIS NEW WORLD OF *UMINEKO WHEN THEY CRY*. I TRULY HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THIS ONE JUST AS MUCH AS THE PREVIOUS.

IN *UMINEKO*, EVENTS WILL UNFOLD SIMILARLY TO THOSE OF A MYSTERY NOVEL, BUT THE ISSUE IN QUESTION IS NOT QUITE THE SAME AS THE TRADITIONAL "FIND THE CULPRIT" NARRATIVE. IN THIS CASE, THE QUESTION IS, "DOES THE WITCH EXIST OR NOT?"

WHEN IT COMES TO MYSTERY-SUSPENSE STORIES, THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN AN OCCULT TALE AND A MYSTERY TALE IS A MAJOR ONE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE ANSWERS TO VIRTUALLY ALL STORIES IN THIS REALM FOLLOW BOILERPLATE MYSTERY TROPES, READERS ARE ABLE TO PIGEONHOLE WHAT IS PRESENTED ("IT'S JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE MYSTERIES, AFTER ALL"), WHICH HAS CAUSED MUCH OF THE GENRE'S ORIGINAL APPEAL TO BE LOST.

LOOKING BACK, THE BLURRING OF THE LINE SEPARATING OCCULT AND LOGICAL MYSTERY, WHICH WAS A MUCH GREATER PART OF MYSTERY-SUSPENSE NOVELS IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY AND BEFORE, CREATED A MUCH MORE EXCITING AND NERVOUS ATMOSPHERE FOR THE READER. I WROTE *UMINEKO WHEN THEY CRY* WITH THE HOPE OF PROVIDING READERS WITH THAT SAME TENSION AND EXCITEMENT.

ENJOY THE RICH AND VIVID WITCHLY ATMOSPHERE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

IT'S OBVIOUSLY JUST ANOTHER MYSTERY STORY, YOU SAY TO YOURSELF. TRY TO FOLLOW ALONG AND PICK APART THE MYSTERY, AND WE'LL SEE HOW FAR YOU GET. THE WITCH'S TORTURE HAS ALREADY BEGUN.

# UMINEKO WHEN THEY CRY COLLAGE THEATER

## MORNING AT THE USHIROMIYAS



# USHIROMIYA BATTLE ROYAL












TEAM NATSUMI IS REALLY INTO KRAUSS.

SPOKESMAN KRAUSS


USHIRO-MIYA DAYTIME SOAP OPERA
YOU KNOW IT'S NOT SERIOUS BETWEEN ME AND HER.
COME ON, GIVE ME A BREAK, BABY.
...WITH A MAN WHO WILL SLEEP AROUND ON ME.
I'M SORRY, SWEETIE. I CAN'T WASTE MY TIME...
COULD YOU MAKE THOSE KISS MARKS ANY MORE OBVIOUS?
ARE YOU BREAKING UP WITH ME?
...THIS ISN'T FUNNY ANY-MORE.
GORO
GORO (RUMBLE)

NICE TO MEET ALL OF YOU. I AM KEI NATSUMI, ARTIST FOR EPISODE 1 OF *UMINEKO*. THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR READING. AS A HUGE *HIGURASHI* FAN, I'VE BEEN ON CLOUD NINE EVER SINCE MY EDITOR TOLD ME I'D HAVE THE CHANCE TO DRAW THIS SERIES. THANK YOU, RYUKISHI07-SAMA AND 8T-SAMA, FOR CHECKING MY DRAFTS EVERY TIME DESPITE HOW BUSY YOU BOTH MUST BE. THANKS GO TO MY EDITORS NOZAKI-SAMA AND KOIZUMI-SAMA. LET OUR COLLABORATION BE LONG AND FRUITFUL!

SO, WE HAVE OUR STAGE SET WITH EIGHTEEN PEOPLE TRAPPED IN A MANSION ON A TINY ISLAND AS A TYPHOON RAGES OUTSIDE. FROM THIS POINT, THE STORY TAKES SOME HARD AND FAST TURNS TOWARD TRAGEDY. I WILL DRAW THIS COMIC ADAPTATION OF THE STORY TO THE VERY UTMOST OF MY ABILITY! I HOPE YOU CHOOSE TO SHARE YOUR TIME WITH ME.



# TRANSLATION NOTES, PART 1

TITLE

***Umineko*:** The title of the series refers to a type of seagull, though the word literally means "sea cat." This ties in to the naming pattern in *Umineko WHEN THEY CRY*'s sister series, *Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY*, where higurashi is a type of cicada. The use of the word "cry" in the title comes from the Japanese verb *naku*, which refers to any vocalization made by animals (i.e., dogs barking, cats meowing, frogs croaking).

COMMON HONORIFICS

**no honorific:** Indicates familiarity or closeness, if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

***-sama*:** Conveys great respect, may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

***-niisan, nii-san*:** A term of endearment meaning "big brother" that may be more widely used to address any young man who is like a brother, regardless of whether he is related or not.

***-neesan, nee-san*:** The female counterpart of the above, *nee-san* is a term meaning "big sister."

PAGE 8

**Battler:** You will notice that the characters of the Ushiromiya family have Western-style names. In the original Japanese, they are written with kanji, the complex Chinese chararacters that carry specific meanings and are used for proper names. However, the kanji in this case are not typical for given names but chosen to fit the unconventional pronunciation of Western names. One exception is Battler, which is written "Batora" but spelled with kanji that would normally read "Sento." The kanji literally mean "fighting person," so in Battler's case they were chosen to fit his name contextually rather than phonetically.

PAGE 14

***Aniki*:** A rough-and-tumble way of saying "big brother," though, as with *nii-san*, it can often be used to refer to people who are not literally brothers but have the same age/attitude that an older brother would. *Aneki* is similarly used for "big sister."

PAGE 16

**Jellyfish/mushrooms:** In Japanese, jellyfish is *kurage*, and the type of mushroom mentioned is *kikurage*, which has a jerky-like texture of its own that resembles dried jellyfish.

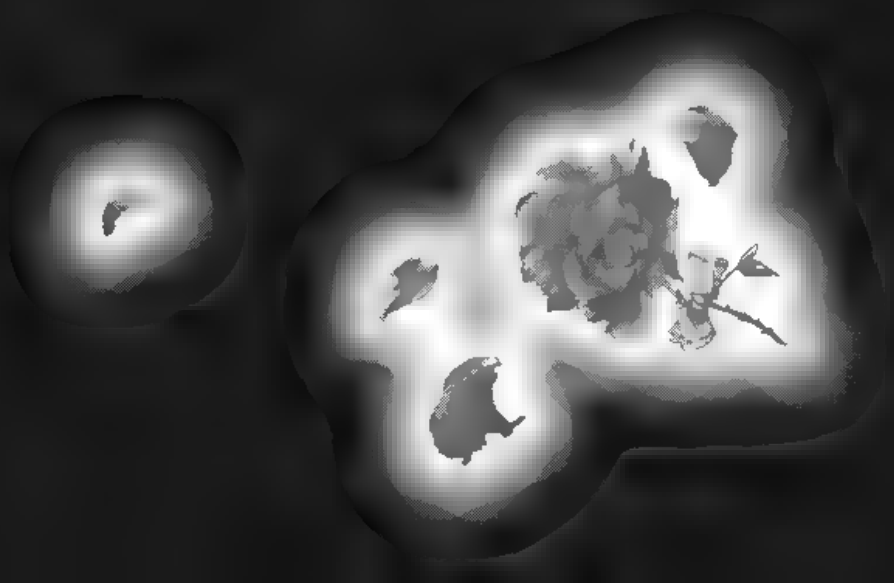
**Bamboo shoots:** Called *menma* in Japanese, these chewy, cylindrical brown shoots are often seen served on top of bowls of ramen. The shade of brown is indeed very similar in appearance to wooden chopsticks.

PAGE 38

***Yakitori*:** *Yakitori* means "grilled bird," which in virtually every case refers, of course, to chicken. *Yakitori* is typically served in chunks on a skewer, basted with a special sauce.

PAGE 255

**Commercial Krauss:** This single cut is a parody of a Japanese commercial line for Nescafé instant coffee. The original title was "Dabada~Krauss," which refers to the commercial's music that featured a distinct female scat singing style.




Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch


Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1 Legend of the Golden Witch




ZAAAAAA (FSHHH)
IT'S LIKE NOTHING THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE I LANDED ON THIS ISLAND HAS ANY BASIS IN REALITY.
KACHI CTICK
KACHI
CHI
CHI
THE GOLDEN WITCH.
A LETTER SUPPOSED-LY FROM THE WITCH HERSELF...
AN EPITAPH THAT SAYS THE WITCH WILL COME TO LIFE IF GIVEN HUMAN SACRI-FICES.
AND NOW...
ON THE FIRST NIGHT, OFFER UP
S SACRIFICES THE SIX THE KEY CHOOSES
WHO REMAIN

# Chapter 6: The Eternal Promise




WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, DAD!?
...NOW YOU'RE CLAIMING YOU'LL BE KILLED TONIGHT?
FIRST YOU SAY YOU WANT TO DISCUSS SOMETHING AS A FAMILY
HA
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON WITH YOU!?
HUH!?
.. NOT A MAN WHO WOULD SPARE HIS FAMILY A SECOND THOUGHT.
MY FATHER'S ALWAYS BEEN ARROGANT AND SELF-CONFIDENT...
IS THIS WEAK, FRIGHTENED MAN... REALLY THAT SAME ASSHOLE DAD?


DAD'S THE REASON I'VE KEPT THE USHI-ROMIYA FAMILY AT A DISTANCE ALL THESE YEARS.
AFTER THE UTTERLY SHAMEFUL WAY HE BETRAYED MY LATE MOTHER...
...I SPENT THE LAST SIX YEARS LIVING WITH HER FAMILY INSTEAD.
NOW MY GRAND-PARENTS ON HER SIDE HAVE PASSED AWAY AS WELL, AND I'M BACK WITH THE USHI-ROMIYAS... BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'VE FORGIVEN HIM.
GU (CLENCH)
SO WHAT DOES THIS WORTH-LESS BAS-TARD...
...THINK HE'S GOING TO TELL HIS SO-CALLED "FAMILY," WITH HIS VOICE TREMBLING IN FEAR?


DON'T COME AFTER ME
I NEED TO WASH MY FACE
...WHAT THE HELL'S UP WITH HIM...? IS HE FREAKED OUT OVER THAT CREEPY LETTER?


"I HOPE THEY'LL FOLLOW ME AND FORCE THE ANSWER OUT OF ME."
I SUS-PECT HE THINKS ...
...."I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY BUT NOT THE COURAGE TO SAY IT.
パキ... PAKI (SNAP)
PERHAPS WE SHOULD FLIP OVER THE CHESS-BOARD ON RUDOLF-SAN'S FEEL-INGS...


WELL, I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT HE ACTUALLY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.
WH-WHAT!? ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN INTERPRET HIM THAT WAY!?
IF I GO TO HIM, MAYBE JUST MY BEING THERE WILL HELP CALM HIM, AND HE'LL OPEN UP TO ME.
BUT I KNOW THE STRONG FRONT HE USUALLY PUTS UP HAS BEEN BEATEN DOWN BY FATIGUE TONIGHT.


RIGHT.
WELL, I'LL LET YOU HANDLE THAT WORTHLESS OLD MAN NOW.
HOW DEDICATED OF YOU.
OH, AND KYRIE-SAN?
NIKO (GRIN)
I'M GLAD.
COMMUNICATION IS GOOD.
TON (TAP)
THANKS.
TALKING ABOUT THAT STUFF HELPED TAKE A LOAD OFF MY CHEST.
BATTLER-KUN.
KA (TEK)


TRY NOT TO WAKE HER UP.
WE FOUND MARIA-CHAN NODDING OFF IN FRONT OF THE PORTRAIT, SO I'M TAKING HER TO BED.
SHH, QUIET!
GEORGE-ANIKI! AND JESSICA... AND AUNT ROSA.
WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE GUEST-HOUSE.
WE'LL ONLY GET IN THE WAY OF THE ADULTS' DISCUSSION IF WE HANG AROUND THE MANSION.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'RE GOING TO FINISH UP ANY TIME SOON.


CAN I ASK YOU TO WATCH OVER MARIA FOR ME...?
DON (THUD)
WE'VE GOT HER TAKEN CARE OF, AUNT ROSA!
THE THREE OF US WILL PUT HER TO BED!
I'LL LEAVE MARIA WITH YOU.
THANK YOU...

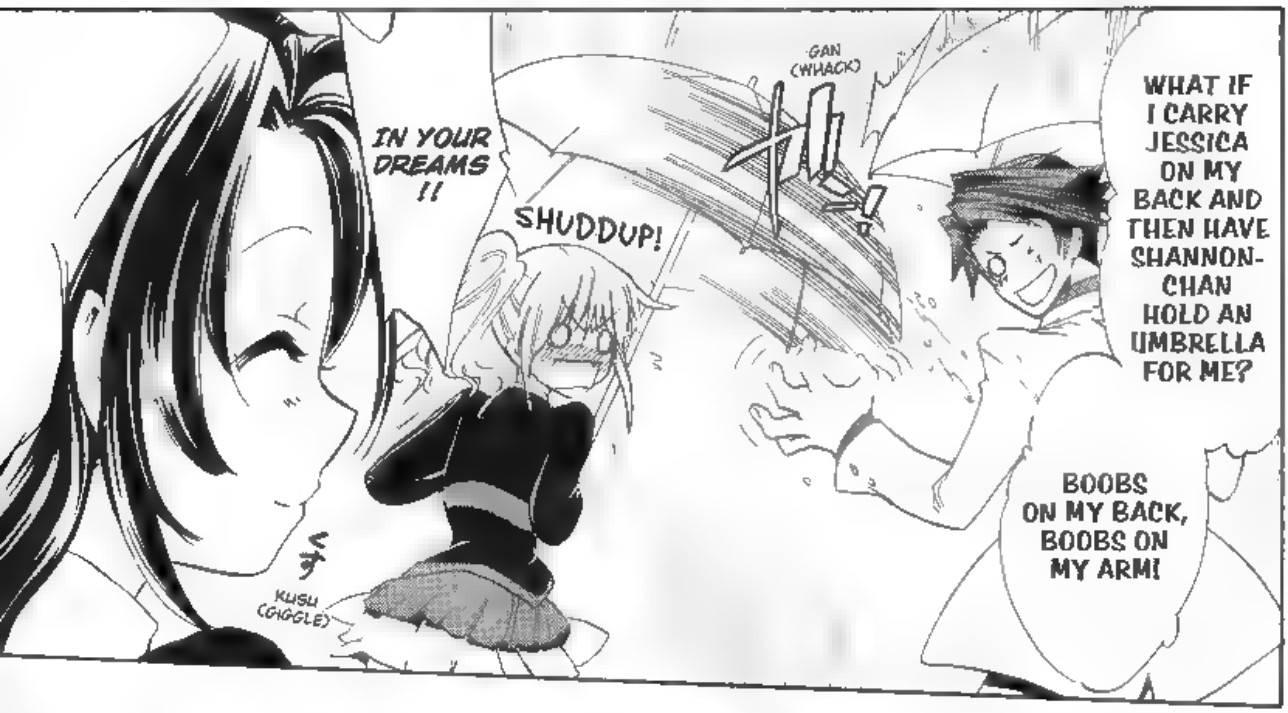

ZAAAAAAA
FSHH


BASHA
BASHA
SPLASH

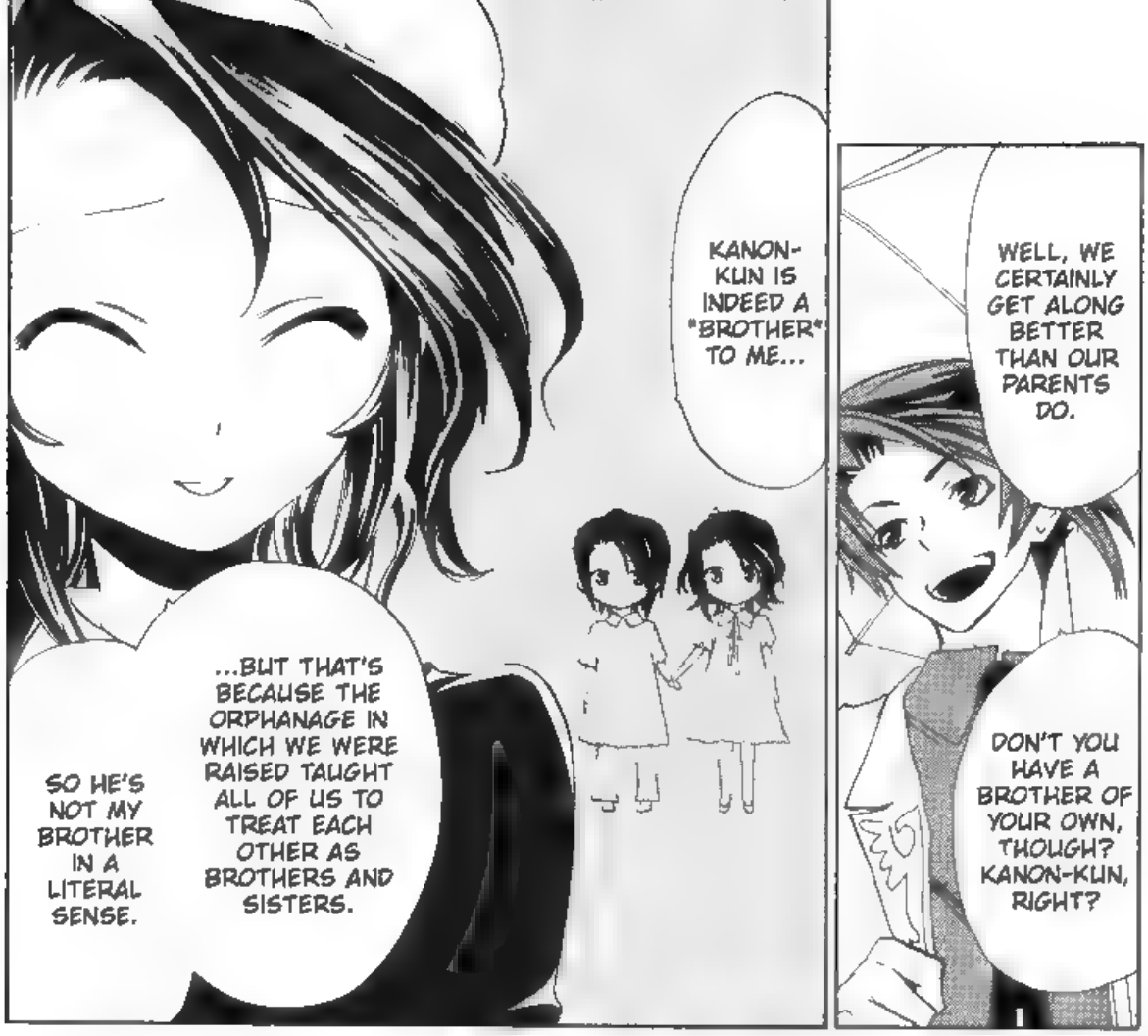

GYU
(SQUISHED)


PAIN
(SQUISH)


GAAH! IF ONLY I WAS THE ONE CARRYING MARIA! THEN SHANNON-CHAN WOULD BE HOLDING THE UMBRELLA OVER MY HEAD, AND HER BOOBS WOULD BE GOING "SQUISH♡" ON MY ARM!!
B-BUT IF WE DON'T SQUEEZE TOGETHER, GEORGE-SAMA WILL GET [redacted]
THANKS FOR WALKING WITH US.
YOU'RE HELPING KEEP MARIA-CHAN DRY.


WHAT IF I CARRY JESSICA ON MY BACK AND THEN HAVE SHANNON-CHAN HOLD AN UMBRELLA FOR ME?
GAN (WHACK)
SHUDDUP!
IN YOUR DREAMS !!
BOOBS ON MY BACK, BOOBS ON MY ARM!
KUSU (GIGGLE)


I'M RATHER JEALOUS.
...AS THOUGH YOU WERE ACTUAL SIBLINGS.
YOU ARE AS CLOSE...


KANON-KUN IS INDEED A "BROTHER" TO ME...
...BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THE ORPHANAGE IN WHICH WE WERE RAISED TAUGHT ALL OF US TO TREAT EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
SO HE'S NOT MY BROTHER IN A LITERAL SENSE.
WELL, WE CERTAINLY GET ALONG BETTER THAN OUR PARENTS DO.
DON'T YOU HAVE A BROTHER OF YOUR OWN, THOUGH? KANON-KUN, RIGHT?


KOKU (NOD)
I SEE... SO YOU GREW UP IN AN ORPHAN-AGE...


...AND GROWING UP TO SERVE THE USHIROMIYA HOUSEHOLD IS THE GREATEST POSSIBLE HONOR.
THE MASTER SERVES AS HONORARY DIRECTOR OF THE "GOSPEL HOME" ORPHAN-AGE...


SER-VANT NAMES, HUH?
THERE ARE OTHERS SUCH AS RENON AND MANON WHO AREN'T HERE TODAY.
DURING OUR PERIOD OF SERVICE, WE ARE GIVEN SERVANT NAMES WITH THE CHINESE CHARACTER FOR "SOUND"— "NON"— NCLUDED.


THE FURNITURE DOES NOT NEED BIRTH NAMES...
I-I'M SORRY. I CANNOT TELL YOU...


DON'T PESTER HER, BATTLER-KUN.
A HINT? JUST A HINT?
OH, WHAT'S THE HARM?
COME ON IN, YOU GUYS.


THAT MEANS YOU HAVE A REAL BIRTH NAME, RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT?


ARE YOU BUSY AFTER THIS, SHANNON-CHAN?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY CARDS WITH US?
Y-YOU WANT ME TO JOIN?


YEAH, TOTALLY! IF HE'S OFF HIS SHIFT, DO YOU THINK KANON-KUN WOULD WANT TO PLAY TOO?
GOOD IDEA!


WE'RE ON SPECIAL SHIFTS DURING THE FAMILY GATHER-ING.
I'LL GO FIND OUT WHAT KANON-KUN'S DOING RIGHT NOW.
PATA (TEP)
PATA
PATA


SERVANTS' ROOM
GACHA (CLICK)
OH... KANON-KUN? AND GENJI-SAMA TOO?
KANON AND SHANNON, YOU WILL WORK THE GUESTHOUSE LATE-NIGHT SHIFT, WHILE KUMASAWA-SAN AND I WILL SPEND THE NIGHT HERE.
GOUDA-SAN WILL OVERSEE THE NIGHT SHIFT AT THE MANSION.
OUR SHIFTS HAVE CHANGED ON KRAUSS-SAMA'S ORDERS.
EVERY-ONE'S MANSION AND GUEST-HOUSE SHIFTS HAVE BEEN REVERSED, EXCEPT FOR KUMASAWA-SAN.


I BELIEVE IT WAS BECAUSE OF BEATRICE-SAMA'S LETTER.
THESE ARE VERY DRAMATIC CHANGES ... WHY NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
...AND THE LETTER WAS SEALED WITH A STAMP FROM THE RING THAT SIGNIFIES THE MASTER'S OWN INTENT.
THE THREE OF US ARE THE MASTER'S PERSONAL SERVANTS, GIFTED WITH THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE...
HA!
(ZAAAA (FSHHH)
...SO IT MAKES SENSE THAT HE WOULD WANT TO DISTANCE US FROM THE FAMILY GATHERING.
KRAUSS-SAMA ALREADY HAS REASON TO SHUN US AS THE MASTER'S PERSONAL AGENTS...


IN THAT CASE, I WILL TURN IN FOR THE NIGHT.
CALL FOR HELP IF YOU NEED ANY-THING.
RE-MEMBER THAT OUR COMPANY TONIGHT...
...IS VERY SPE-CIAL.
YES, GENJI-SAMA.


MOJI (FIDGET)

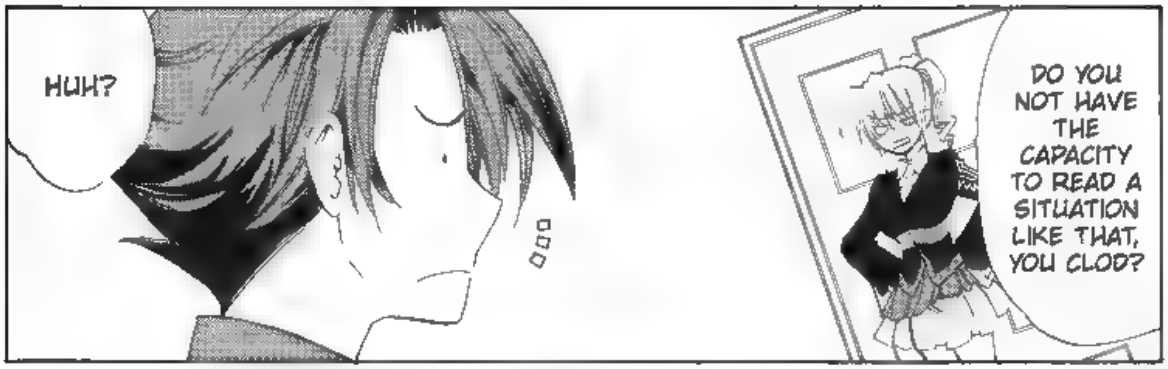

SU (SSK)
WELL, LET'S GET TO OUR LATE-NIGHT SHIFT.
READY, NEE-SAN?


UM...THE CHILDREN ASKED ME IF I WOULD SPEND SOME FREE TIME WITH THEM...
...AND JESSICA-SAMA ASKED... IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN...
I WILL BE HERE IN THE SERVANTS' ROOM. YOU SHOULD ENJOY YOUR CHANCE TO FRATERNIZE, KANON-KUN.
...NO.
INVITATIONS TO GAMES AND FUN ARE OF NO USE TO US.
...WE ARE ONLY FURNI-TURE...

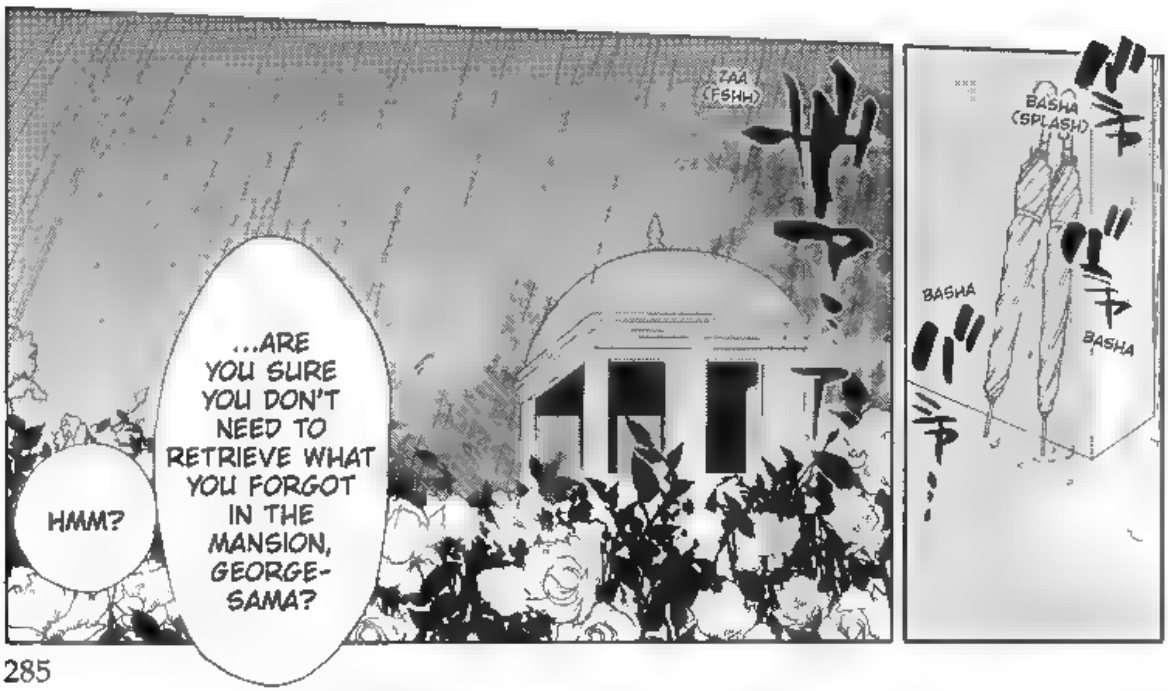

PATAN (THUMP)
PATA (TEP)
PATA
PERA (FLIP)
APOLOGIZE TO THEM FOR ME, NEE-SAN. TELL THEM I AM BUSY ON MY NIGHT SHIFT.
O... KAY...
I AM FURNITURE. I DO NOT NEED HUMAN GAMES.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GO, KANON?
IF PRETENDING TO BE HUMAN MEANS BEING HURT LATER ON, BETTER TO STAY AWAY FROM HUMANS ALTOGETHER...
MY SISTER IS FURNITURE AS WELL.


OH YEAH?
WORK, HUH? THAT SUCKS.
I THINK I FORGOT SOME-THING BACK IN THE MANSION.
CAN YOU LEAD ME BACK THERE, SHANNON-CHAN?
WELL, PARDON ME...
...OH NO!


YOU SURE THAT ISN'T JUST AN EXCUSE TO—
HMRGH!!
HA-HA! TAKE YOUR TIME, YOU TWO!
N-N-N-NO!
HEE HEE?
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
HOPING TO GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH SHANNON-CHAN'S BREASTS AGAIN, ANIKI?


HUH?
DO YOU NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO READ A SITUATION LIKE THAT, YOU CLOD?


!!
WHAT!?
DON'T YOU GET IT? THEY'RE ...


ZAA (FSHH)
BASHA (SPLASH)
BASHA
BASHA
HMM?
...ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED TO RETRIEVE WHAT YOU FORGOT IN THE MANSION, GEORGE-SAMA?


KAAA (BLUSH)
H...
HAA... AHH...
THAT WAS A LIE.
I JUST WANTED A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU.


I CAN SEE YOU MUST BE DILIGENT TO RUN YOUR OWN COMPANY ONE DAY.
THIS RAIN IS AWFUL, ISN'T IT? IT'S A GOOD THING I CLEARED MY SCHEDULE ON MONDAY, JUST IN CASE.


... ...
YOU SEE, MY FATHER ...
... ... ...
... ...
YES, AND IT'S EVEN HARDER THAN I'D THOUGHT.
I'VE BEEN LEARNING AT MY FATHER'S COMPANY FIRST...AND NOW I TRULY KNOW WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED.


OH, NO...
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I HEAR IT...IT IS A JOY TO SEE YOU SPEAK OF YOUR BELOVED FATHER WITH SUCH PRIDE ON YOUR FACE, GEORGE-SAMA...
OH... I TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE, DIDN'T I? SORRY.
MOJI (FIDGET)
I... I WON'T KEEP THAT PROMISE. I'M... FURNI-TURE.
OH ...
OUR "PROMISE," FOR WHEN WE'RE ALONE.
OOPS.
THAT ONE WAS AGAINST THE RULES.
IN THAT CASE ...
...IT'S AN ORDER.
WHEN WE'RE ALONE...?

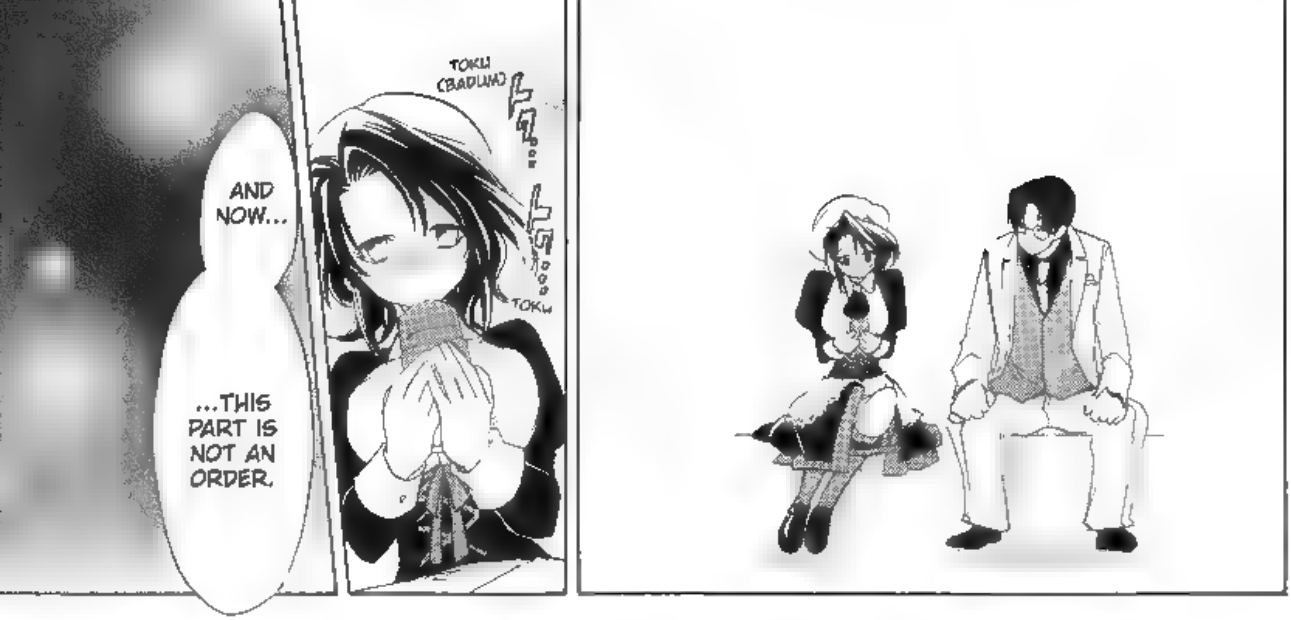

I WILL CALL YOU...
...GEORGE-SAN...
...AS YOU WISH...
THERE.
THAT'S BETTER.
SAYO-CHAN...


YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HERE FOR ALMOST A DECADE, SAYO-CHAN.
DON'T YOU HAVE ENOUGH SAVINGS TO LEAD YOUR OWN LIFE BY NOW?
I'M NOT SURE...
I HAVEN'T BEEN WORKING JUST TO REACH SOME SET AMOUNT OR IN ORDER TO BUY SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR...
I HAVE NO-WHERE TO GO OUT-SIDE OF THIS MAN-SION...
THE MISTRESS DOES SCOLD ME SOMETIMES... BUT I DO ENJOY MY WORK.
BUT IT'S NOT YOUR LIFE, SAYO-CHAN.

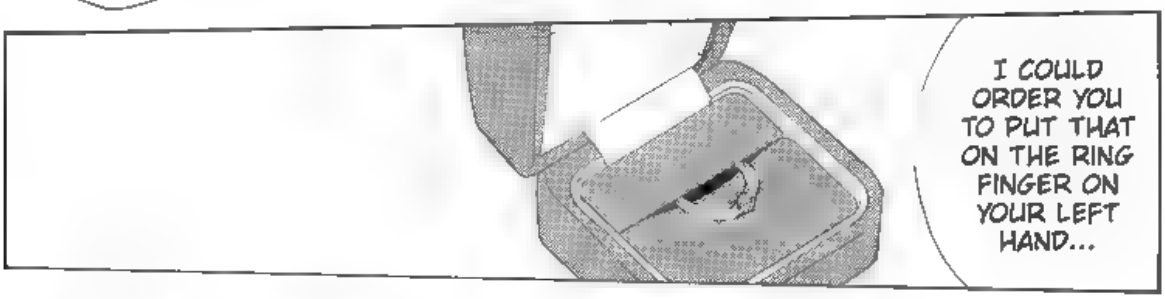

GOSO (RUSTLE)
YOUR IDENTITY AT THIS POINT IS NOTHING MORE THAN "SHANNON THE SERVANT," A MERE SHELL AROUND YOU.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT RESIGNED TO THE FACT THAT THINGS WILL ALWAYS BE THIS WAY FOREVER?
DOKIN (BADUM)
YOU CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS.
AND WHEN YOU DO BREAK OUT OF THAT SHELL, I WANT TO BE THERE TO WALK BY YOUR SIDE.
I'M SAYING...
PAKUN, CTHWUP


...I WANT YOU...
...TO HAVE THIS RING.


I...I CANNOT ACCEPT... SUCH AN EXPENSIVE RING...!
IT'S... TOO MUCH... FOR ME...
SA-YO ...
...THIS IS AN ORDER.
YOU WILL TAKE THIS RING.
OKAY ...?
HA... AHH...


TOKU (BADUM)
トク…トク…
TOKU
AND NOW...
...THIS PART IS NOT AN ORDER.


I WANT AN ANSWER BY TOMORROW, SAYO.
IF YOU LIKE THE RING, PUT IT ON WHATEVER FINGER YOU WANT.

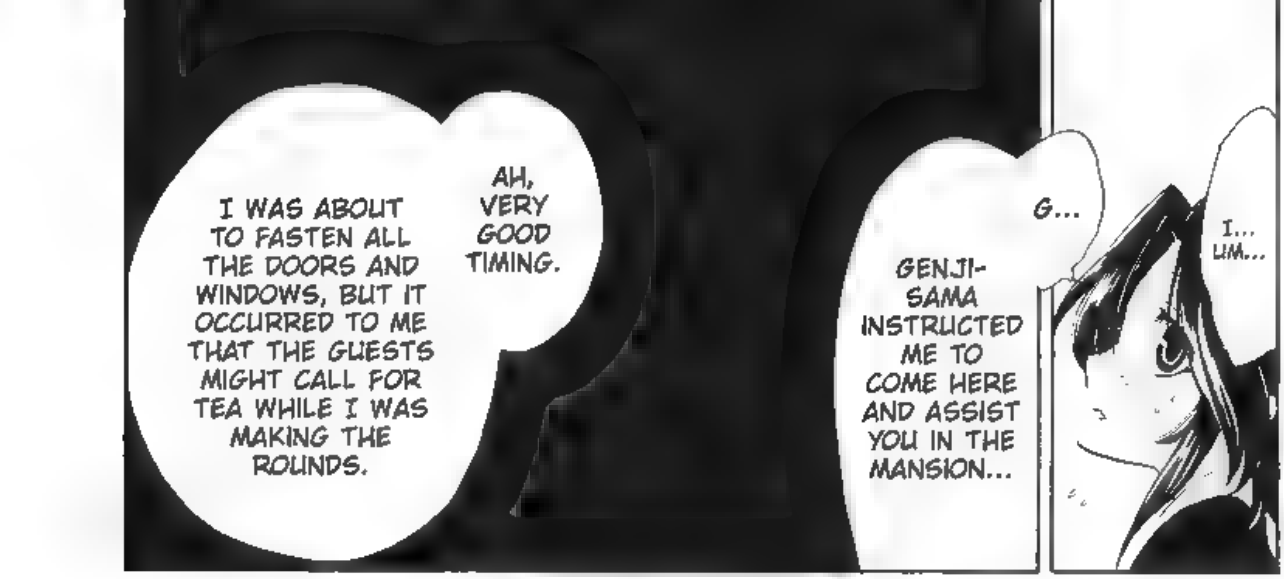

I COULD ORDER YOU TO PUT THAT ON THE RING FINGER ON YOUR LEFT HAND...

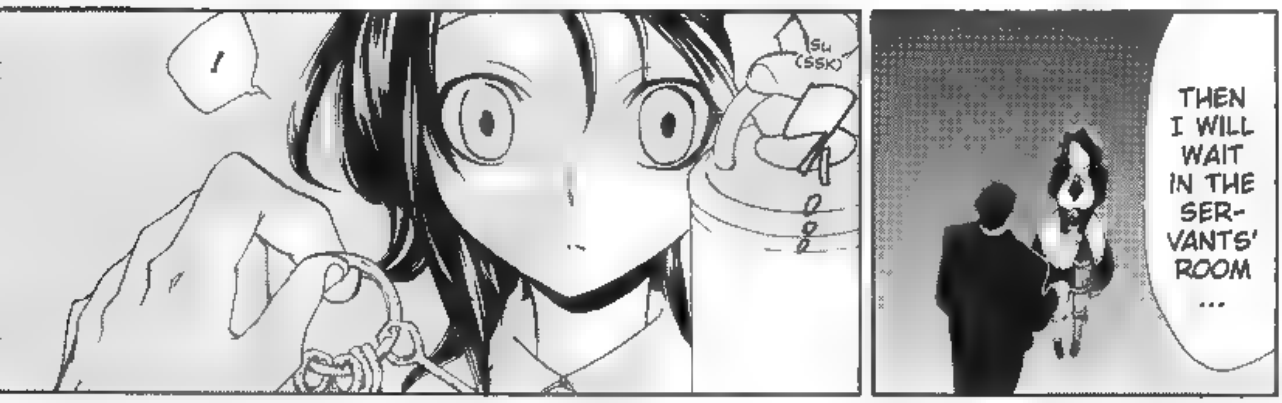

...BUT I WON'T.
I WANT TO SEE A SIGN OF YOUR OWN WILL, SAYO.


KOKU (NOD)
!
KUSU (CHUCKLE)
AT THIS HOUR?
...ARE YOU SURE?
I NEED TO...GO BACK... THERE...
UM, I JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF AT THE MANSION...
SHALL WE GO BACK TO THE GUEST-HOUSE?
AH...


WELL, I'LL BE IN THE GUEST-HOUSE.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW... GOOD NIGHT.
G-GOOD NIGHT.
SLEEP WELL, GEORGE-SAN...
SHIN (BREAK)
ナデナデ

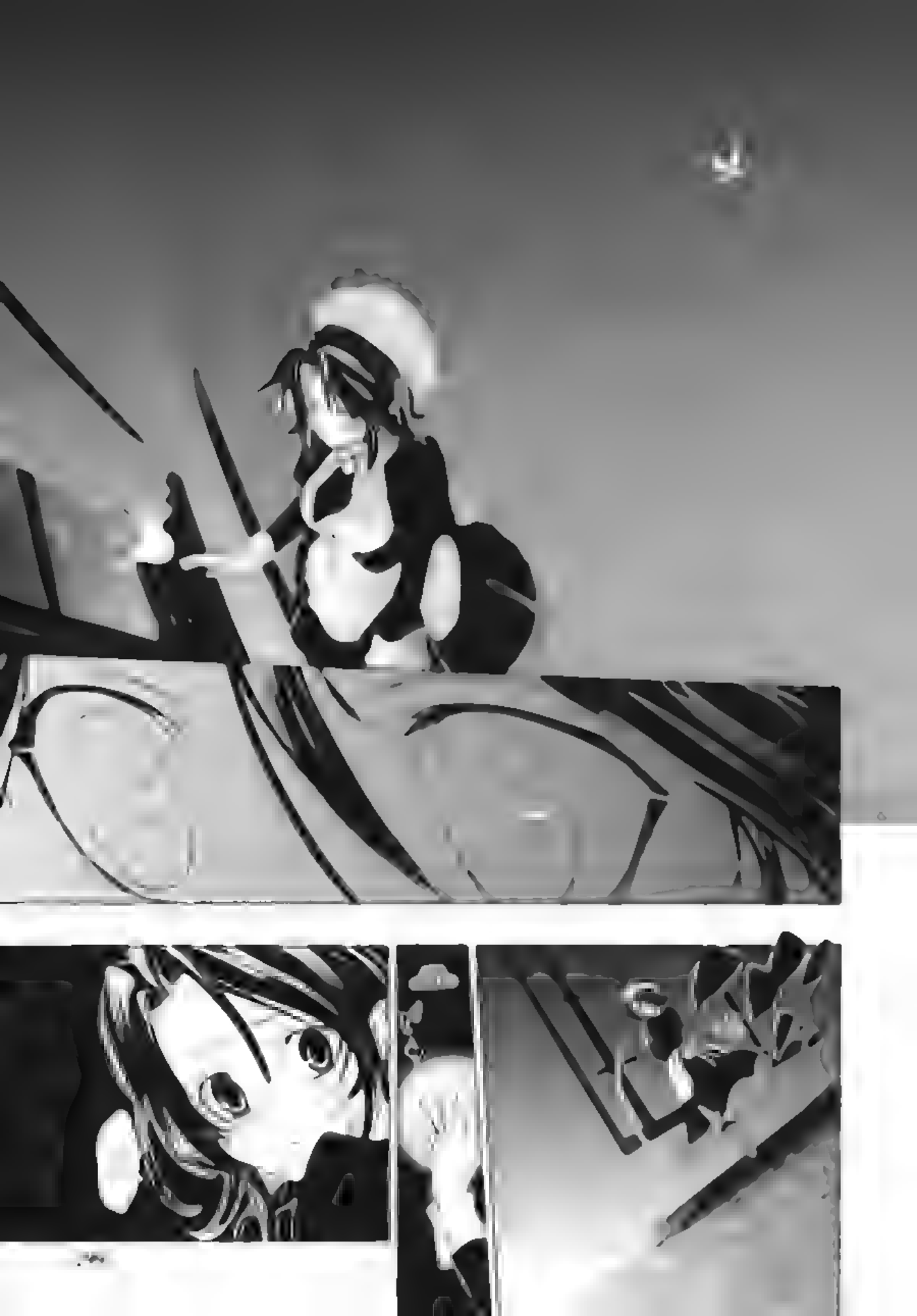

GEORGE-SAN...
I WANT AN ANSWER BY TOMORROW...
I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS...
KYU (SQUEEZE)
G, GOUDA-SAN.
...WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHANNON-SAN? AREN'T YOU ON THE NIGHT SHIFT IN THE GUEST-HOUSE?
GACHA (CLICK)
BIKU! (FLINCH)


I... UM...
G...
GENJI-SAMA INSTRUCTED ME TO COME HERE AND ASSIST YOU IN THE MANSION...
AH, VERY GOOD TIMING.
I WAS ABOUT TO FASTEN ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS, BUT IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT THE GUESTS MIGHT CALL FOR TEA WHILE I WAS MAKING THE ROUNDS.


I
SU (SSK)
THEN I WILL WAIT IN THE SER-VANTS' ROOM ...


OH ...
YES, SIR...
I WILL BE THE ONE WAITING IN THE SERVANTS' ROOM.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO MAKE THE MANSION ROUNDS.





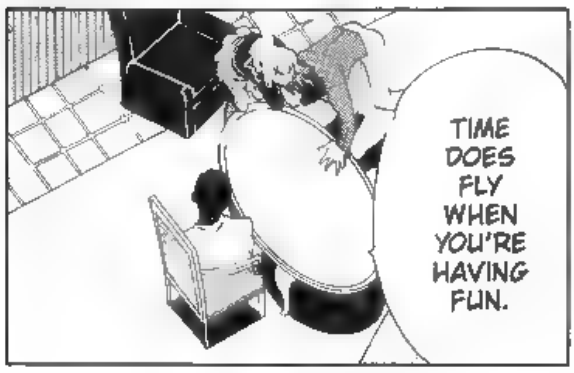





AND I WIN!
PASHI
OSHACHO


YOU'LL NEVER LAY A FINGER ON MY TITS!
HA HA HA.
GOOD-NESS, LOOK AT THE TIME.
AAAAHH!

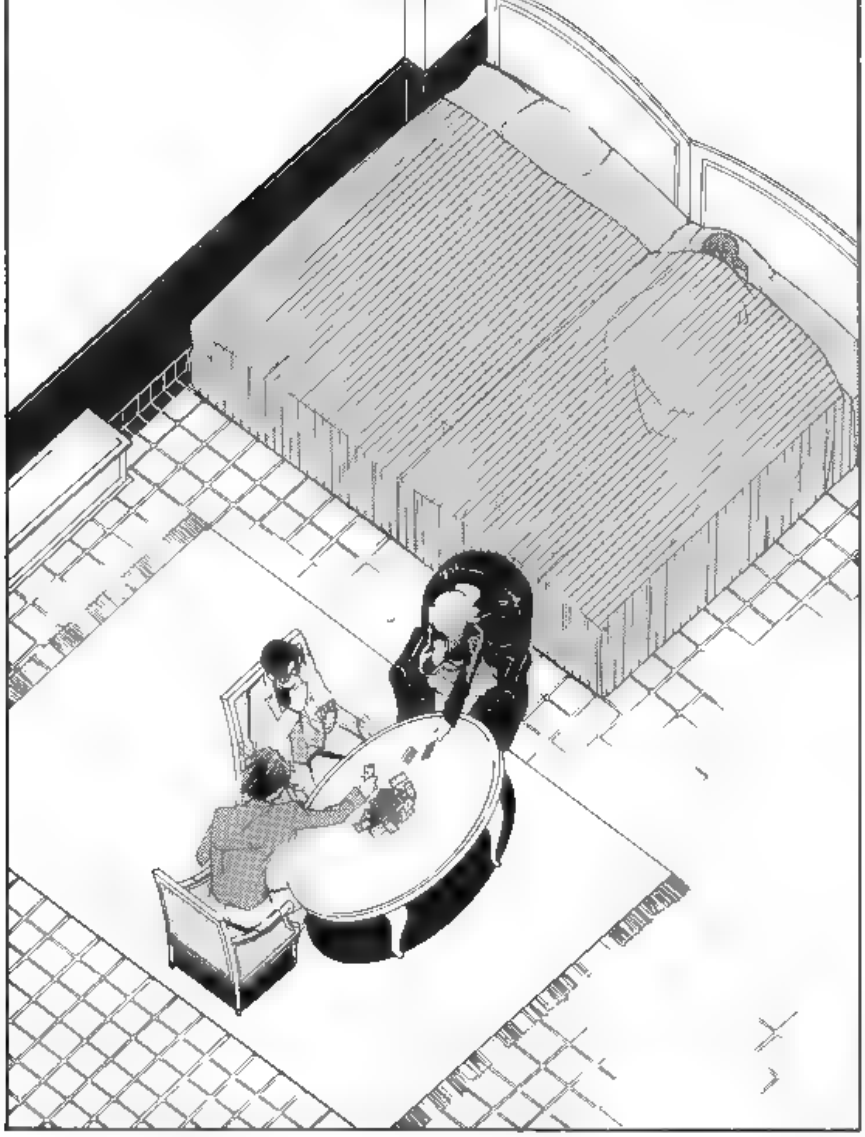

DAMN, I LOST AGAIN.
HEE-HEE! YOU CAME IN LAST, SO YOU GET A PENALTY GAME!
WHAT SHOULD I CHOOSE? PERHAPS A NICE, FIRM BREAST GROPING?

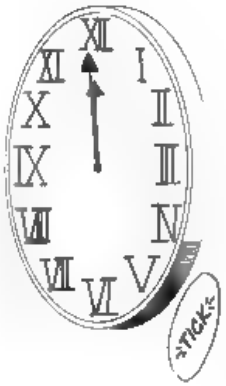

TIME DOES FLY WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN.


I KNOW!
TODAY WAS REALLY AWESOME!
IT SURE IS DIFFERENT WITH YOU AROUND, BATTLER-KUN. THERE'S NEVER A DULL MOMENT.
KOKI (CRAK)
HEE HEE!
WELL, I'M HON-ORED!
HOW WEIRD IS IT THAT WE'RE GETTING ALONG LIKE THE LAST SIX YEARS NEVER HAP-PENED?
AND IT'S JUST THE FIRST DAY. IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN THROUGH ALL KINDS OF STUFF...
...BUT IT'S STILL ONLY THE FIRST NIGHT...
"ON THE FIRST NIGHT...


"...OFFER UP AS SACRIFICES THE SIX THE KEY CHOOSES."
I HAVE A FEELING I'M GOING TO BE MURDERED TONIGHT.


BATTLER? WHAT'S WITH THE SERIOUS FACE?
AH...
.....
YOU WERE THINKING HORNY THOUGHTS AGAIN!
HEE-HEE-HEE! DON'T YOU KNOW YOUNG MEN THINK ABOUT SEX MORE THAN HALF THE DAY?
IT CAN'T BE...
...RIGHT...?




TICK
TICK


TICK

SERVANTS' ROOM
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK


XII
I
X
IX
VIII
VII
VI
V
TOCK
TICK
TICK
TIC




Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch


6:00 A.M., OCTOBER 5TH
ZAZAAAAA
(FSHHH)

# Chapter 7: The First Night (1)




...SIGH...
KACHA (CLICK)
WILL THIS BE ANOTHER DAY OF THAT AWFUL FAMILY SNIPING AND BICKERING?
KACHAN (JINGLE)
WHAT IS THIS...?
APPARENTLY YOU CAN HANG IT FROM THE DOORKNOB...
...SO I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD THANK JESSICA FOR THAT GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP...


KON (KNOCK)
KON
THIS SPIRIT MIRROR WAS A MEMENTO FROM MY GRAND-FATHER ...
I CAN GIVE THIS TO JESSICA IN RETURN.
KATA (THUNK)
...GENJI?
GOOD MORNING, MADAM.
FOR-GIVE MY EARLY INTRUSION.
GIIII (CREAK)
WHAT IS IT?
IT SEEMS THAT LIGHTNING FROM LAST NIGHT'S STORM HAS DAMAGED THE PHONE LINES.
OUR INTERNAL LINES ARE NO LONGER WORKING...I WILL ARRANGE FOR REPAIRS ONCE THIS IS OVER.

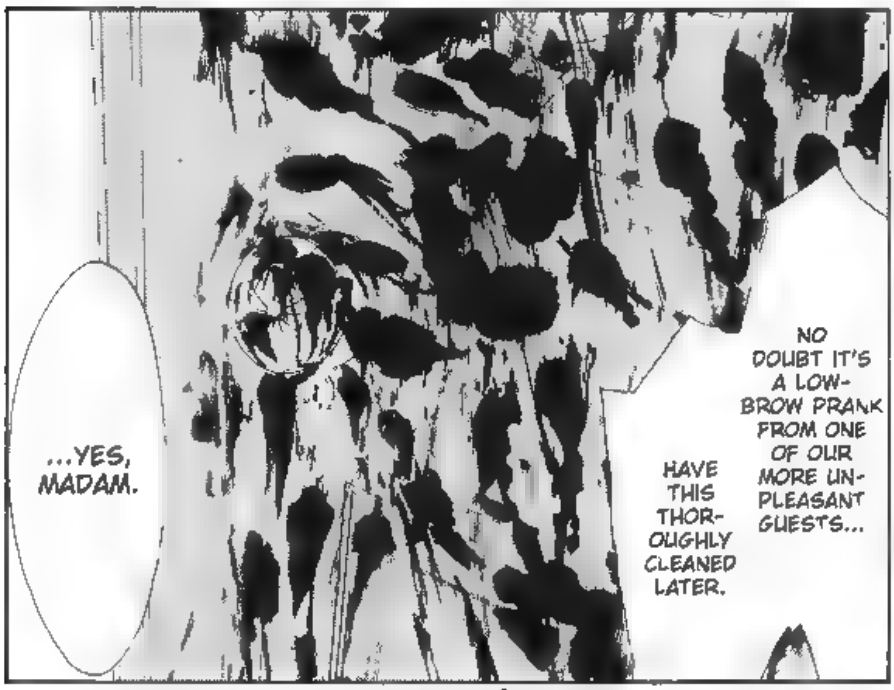

...WE HAVE NOT SEEN GOUDA TODAY...
.....ALSO, MADAM ...
SO WE CANNOT USE OUR INTERNAL PHONE LINE UNTIL THE TYPHOON PASSES.
GOUDA?
THEN BREAK-FAST HAS—
NOT BEEN STARTED, I'M AFRAID.
IT HASN'T !?
WHY TODAY OF ALL DAYS .?
SO HE'S DECIDED TO SLEEP IN AND NEGLECT HIS DUTY, HMM? JUST GET SOMEONE, ANYONE, STARTED ON COOKING BREAKFAST...
CR-LCREAK


...
BLOOD
...!?
HUH...?


...WHA...?
!!
DON (THUMP)
WH-WHAT WICKED MISCHIEF IS THIS...!?
HOW REPUL-SIVE!


IT'S AS THOUGH BLOODY HANDS WERE GRASPING AND SCRATCHING AT THE DOOR...


I FIRST NOTICED IT MYSELF WHEN I CAME TO THE DOOR JUST NOW.
HOW TASTE-LESS...
THIS IS VERY UP-SETTING... VERY UP-SETTING, INDEED!


...YES, MADAM.
HAVE THIS THOR-OUGHLY CLEANED LATER.
NO DOUBT IT'S A LOW-BROW PRANK FROM ONE OF OUR MORE UN-PLEASANT GUESTS...




KA (TOK)
KA
KA


KURU (GRIND)

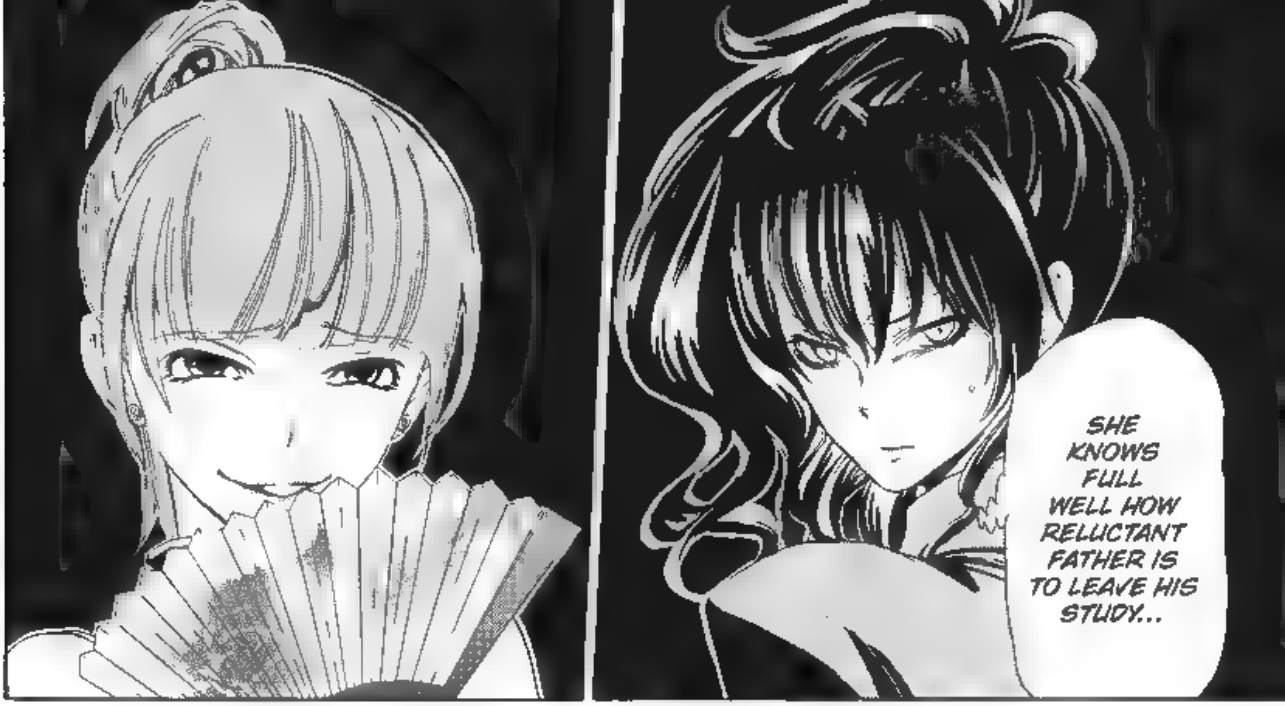

JARAN (JINGLE)
GI (CREAK)
OH MY! YOU'VE DECIDED TO JOIN US, NATSUKI-NEESAN.
MADAM!
TA (TEK) TA
I AM HEART-ENED TO SEE YOU IN A GOOD MOOD THIS MORNING, EVA-SAN.
KUSU (GIGGLE)
KUSU
SWEET DREAMS LAST NIGHT?
QUITE REGAL OF YOU TO RISE ONLY AFTER YOUR GUESTS ARE UP FOR THE DAY.
STOP THAT, EVA.


KANON.
HAVE YOU FOUND GOUDA?
NO...
AND IT'S NOT JUST GOUDA ...
KRAUSS-SAMA, RUDOLF-SAMA AND HIS WIFE... EVEN ROSA-SAMA IS MISSING...
I'VE LOOKED THROUGH THE GUEST-HOUSE AND THE MANSION, AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM...
MY HUSBAND AND HIS OTHER SIBLINGS!?
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN...?
NOT ONE OR TWO, BUT FIVE PEOPLE UNACCOUNTED FOR THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?

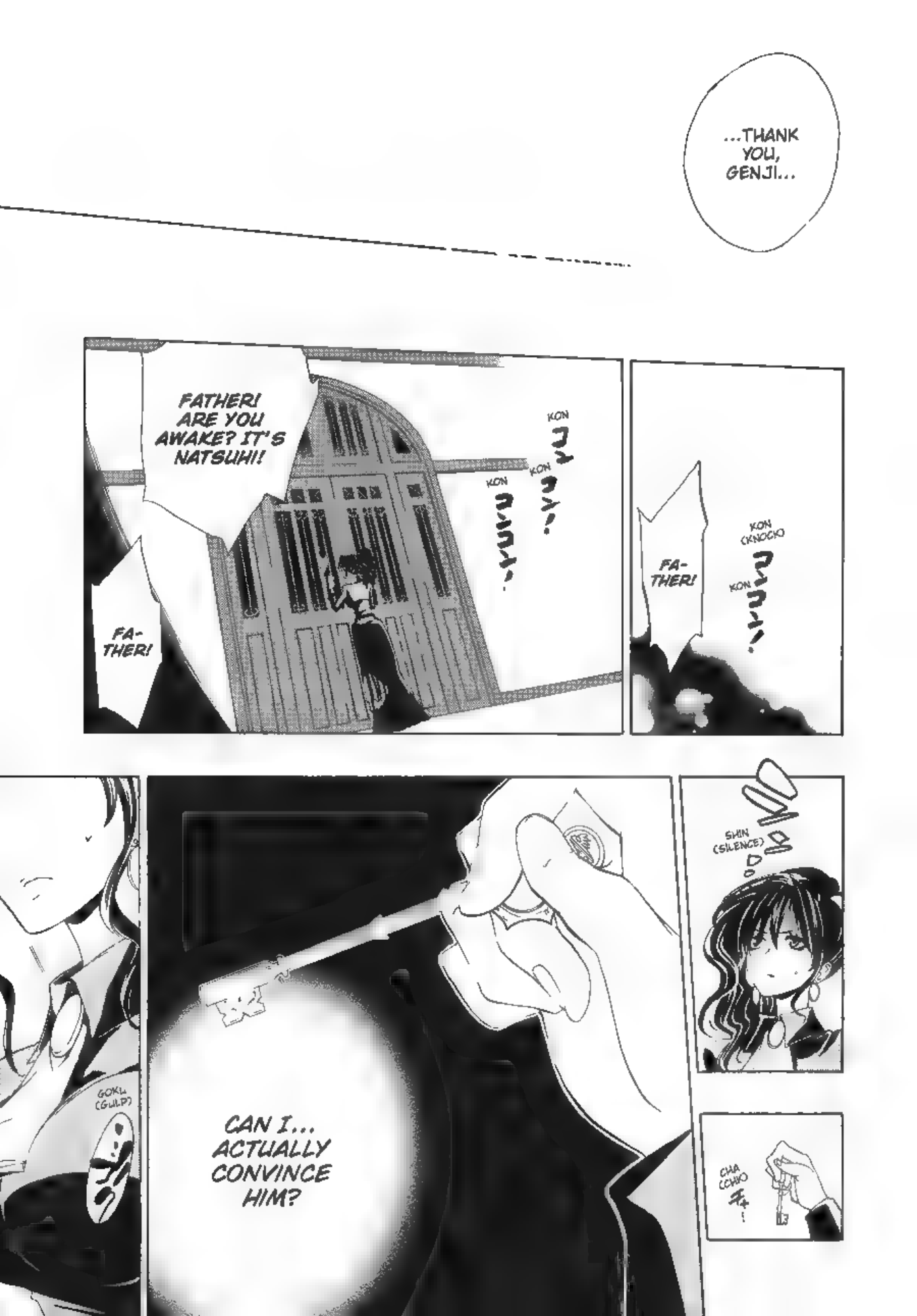

...
THEN PERHAPS THE DISCUSSION IS CONTINUING... AND THEY VENTURED OUTSIDE UNDER THE PRETENSE OF TAKING A SHORT BREAK...
...AND GOUDA WAS DRAGGED ALONG TO ATTEND TO THEM...
WHAT? YOU THINK THEY'RE STILL TALKIN' !?
HOW VERY DILIGENT OF THEM.
...SO YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE ANY OF THEM ARE, HIDEYOSHI-SAN, EVA-SAN?
WE BOTH WENT TO BED JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT.
THEY WERE STILL ARGUIN'... BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT!


HE MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE OUTSIDE, NATSUHI-NEESAN.
IF YOU FIND GOUDA, INSTRUCT HIM TO RETURN AND PREPARE BREAKFAST.
LOOK OUT FRONT, KANON.
ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THAT HE COULD BE...
...IN FATHER'S STUDY?
I'LL JUST GO CHECK THE STUDY, THEN.
SO THEY MIGHT HAVE MOVED THE DISCUSSION TO THE STUDY TO HAVE FATHER WEIGH IN ON THE MATTER.
OH!


I CANNOT ALLOW A GUEST OF THE HOUSE TO GO TO SUCH TROUBLE.
IF WE MUST BE CERTAIN, I WILL GO.
YOU CAN'T?
I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT FATHER WOULD CHOOSE TO WELCOME SUCH AN UNSAVORY CONVERSATION INTO HIS PRIVATE STUDY.
IN THAT CASE... WILL YOU CONVINCE FATHER TO COME OUT AND EAT BREAK-FAST WITH US?
I'M SURE THAT AS THE PROUD WIFE OF THE HEIR OF USHIROMIYA, YOU WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE IN PERSUADING HIM.


SHE KNOWS FULL WELL HOW RELUCTANT FATHER IS TO LEAVE HIS STUDY...


BUT WON'T YOU SUFFER HIS WRATH IF YOU LET ME USE IT...?
YOU WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE HIM FROM BEYOND THE DOOR. PLEASE USE IT.
THIS IS MY PERSONAL KEY TO MY LORD'S STUDY.
MAD-AM.
PLEASE TAKE THIS.
IS THAT...?


...THANK YOU, GENJI...
FATHER! ARE YOU AWAKE? IT'S NATSUHI!
FA-THER!
KON KON KON
FA-THER!
KON (KNOCK) KON
GOKU (GULP)
CAN I... ACTUALLY CONVINCE HIM?
SHIN (SILENCE)
CHA CCHO




...SO... NO ONE ELSE IS IN HERE AFTER ALL...
OH... YOU'RE AWAKE...
GOOD MORN-ING...


...HOW DID YOU GET IN?


WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
IF MY FRIEND CONSIDERED IT WORTH ALLOWING YOU TO ENTER, THEN I MUST HEAR YOU OUT...
AH... SO IT WAS GENJI.
I ASKED GENJI-SAN TO LEND ME HIS KEY TO THE STUDY...
FOR-GIVE ME, FA-THER.


B... BREAK-FAST WILL BE READY SOON.
AND... THIS IS OUR ANNUAL FAMILY GATHER-ING.
AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY... PLEASE GRACE US WITH YOUR PRESENCE.


.....!


DO NOT BOTHER ME!


I AM A BUSY MAN.
NON-SENSE.
AND JOIN THE VULTURES DECIDING HOW THEY WILL TEAR APART MY WEALTH?


I CANNOT SEND HIM INTO A RAGE...
.....I UNDER-STAND... I WILL PASS ON THE MES-SAGE...


NATSUHI.


...DO YOU EVER MISS YOUR OLD HOME?

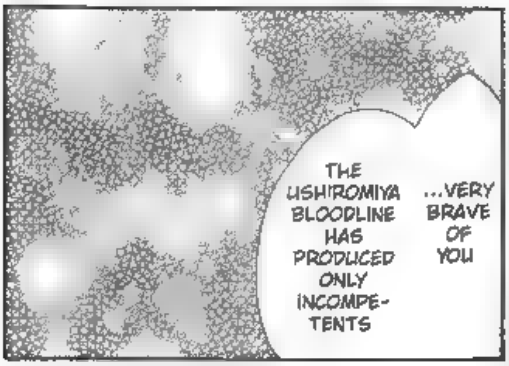


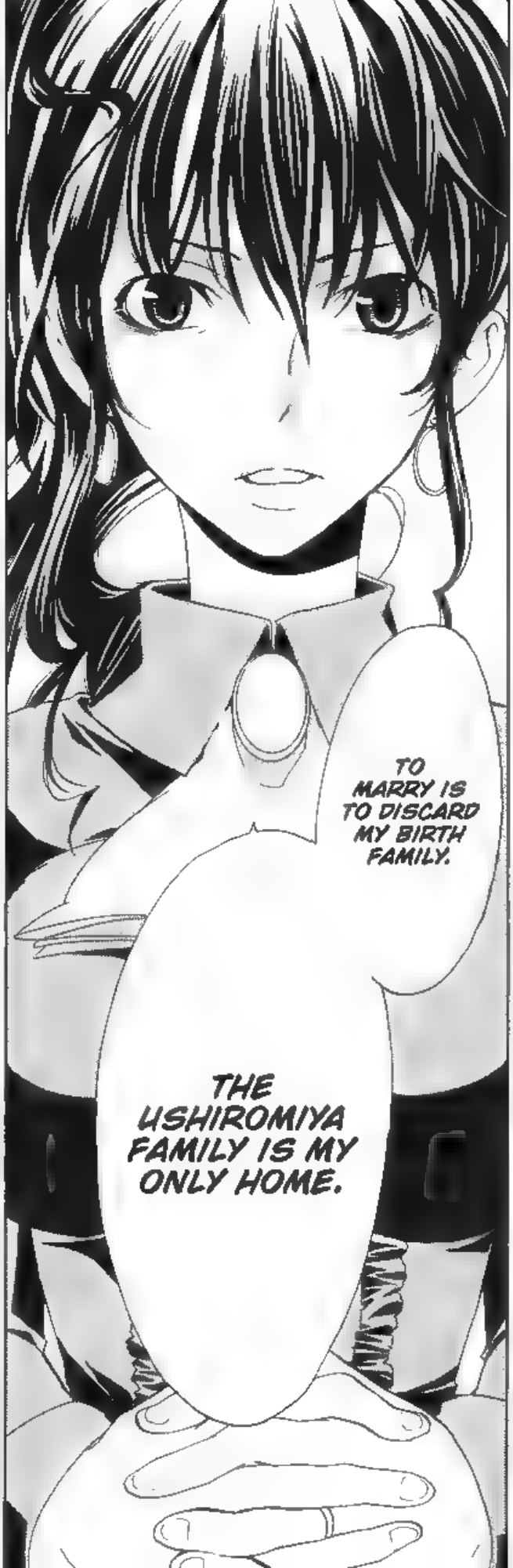

...IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE YOU MARRIED INTO THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.


I MAR-RIED ...
...BECAUSE I COULD NOT ESCAPE MY FATE...


I HAVE STRIVEN TO UPHOLD THE PRIDE BEFITTING A WOMAN OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.
CAN'T YOU EVEN FULFILL YOUR DUTY AS AN INCUBATOR?
WHY DID YOU MARRY IN IF YOU CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN?
A CHILDLESS WIFE HAS NO VALUE AS A HUMAN!
ALL OF MY EFFORTS WERE MET WITH INDIFFERENCE, JEERS, AND INSULTS...
I CAN DO IT ON MY OWN. I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU ARE NOT EVEN WORTHY OF THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE! KNOW YOUR PLACE!
...BUT EVEN THEN ...
I AM NATSUHI USHIRO-MIYA.




THE USHIROMIYA BLOODLINE HAS PRODUCED ONLY INCOMPE-TENTS
...VERY BRAVE OF YOU


TO MARRY IS TO DISCARD MY BIRTH FAMILY.
THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY IS MY ONLY HOME.


IF ONLY KRAUSS WERE THE WOMAN... AND YOU WERE THE HUSBAND ...


FA... THER ...?
IS HE SAYING... THAT HE VALUES ME MORE THAN MY HUSBAND...?
FATHER!
WE MAY NOT BE RELATED BY BLOOD, BUT I AM YOUR DAUGHTER!
GU (CLENCH)
THE HONOR AND GLORY OF USHI-ROMIYA...
...AND EVERY-THING THAT YOU LEAVE US...


...WILL BE SAFE!
IN MY HANDS...!
YOU MARRIED INTO THE FAMILY FROM OUTSIDE. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE, THE CREST OF USHIROMIYA...


HOW-EVER ...
...THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE IS MOST CERTAINLY CARVED INTO YOUR HEART.
DO NOT HEED ANY SNEERS ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF AN EAGLE ON YOUR CLOTHES.
GYU SQUEEZE
THEREFORE, YOU ARE UNQUESTIONABLY OF MY BLOOD AND WORTHY OF INHERITING THE USHIROMIYA GLORY.


ONLY THOSE WITH AN EAGLE ON THEIR HEARTS ARE MY TRUE FLESH AND BLOOD.
I NOW THINK OF THE DAY YOU JOINED THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY WITH PRIDE...


OH?
ALL ALONE?
SO YOU COULDN'T PERSUADE FATHER TO COME.
I SUPPOSE HE DOESN'T HAVE THE TIME TO LISTEN TO ANYONE WITHOUT THE EAGLE SADLY.
DO NOT HEED ANY SNEERS ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF AN EAGLE ON YOUR CLOTHES.
I PITY YOU.
NO WONDER FATHER LAMENTS THE STATE OF HIS LINE.
WHA ...?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ...!?
TSUKA (STRIDE)
TSUKA


NIKO (GRIN)
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE SERVANTS TO FIND THEM, EVA-SAN?
KA (TEK)
FATHER WILL NOT BE COMING DOWN TO JOIN US. HE SAYS HE HAS NO INTEREST IN THAT DETESTABLE TOPIC, SO I DOUBT HE KNOWS WHERE MY HUSBAND AND THE OTHERS ARE.
N-NO, THANK YOU...
I AM NATSUHI USHI-ROMIYA...
...AND I BEAR THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE ON MY HEART!


DAAAH!


TH... THANKS, MARIA-CHAN. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE SLEPT IN ANY LONGER...
WHAT'S GOING ON!? ENEMY ATTACK!?
UU, UU, UU!!
BOSUN
BOSUN (THWOMP)
UU, UU, UU! WAKE UP!!
BOSU


ALREADY SEVEN...? YEAH, I GUESS I SHOULD BE UP BY NOW...
YAWWN...
UUU.
BUT YOU COULD HAVE CHOSEN A GEN-TLER WAY OF DOING IT...


MAMA'S GONE!
UUU!
UUU!
UUU!


UUU!
GONE!! MAMA'S GONE!!
ZAAAAA (FSHH)
MAYBE SHE'S ALREADY GONE TO THE MANSION...
...AUNT ROSA WASN'T IN HER ROOM?
NO MAMA!
NO MAMA!!
UUU, UUU!!
UUU!
MAMA!
ZAAAAA
OUR PARENTS ARE ALL OVER THERE, I BET.
YEAH.
UU.
HERE'S YOUR OUTFIT
I'M SURE WE'LL FIND AUNT ROSA THERE.
LET'S GO OVER AND JOIN THEM.


AAAA
ZAAA (FSHH)


THAT'S RIGHT.


KRAUSS-NIISAN, RUDOLF, KYRIE-SAN, ROSA, AND GOUDA-SAN ARE GONE.
PLUS... I HEAR SHANNON-CHAN HASN'T BEEN FOUND EITHER.
PROBABLY ALL WENT DOWN TO THE SHORE FOR A CHANGE OF PACE.


HUH!?
OUR PARENTS AREN'T HERE!?


I'M SURE AUNT ROSA WILL BE BACK ANY MINUTE NOW.
LET'S STAY HERE AND WATCH TV WHILE WE WAIT FOR THEM, MARIA-CHAN.
. . .
UUU! NO MAMA! MAMA'S GONE! UUU, UUU!!
THE RAIN MAY HAVE EASED UP A BIT FROM YESTERDAY...
EVEN IF THEY HAD GONE OUTSIDE... WOULD THEY VENTURE OUT SO FAR THAT A QUICK SEARCH COULDN'T FIND THEM...?
...BUT STILL, OUTSIDE? IN THE MIDST OF A TYPHOON?
UUU
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THIS SHOW?
ZAAAAAA (SHH)
BYUUUUUU (WHOOSH)
!

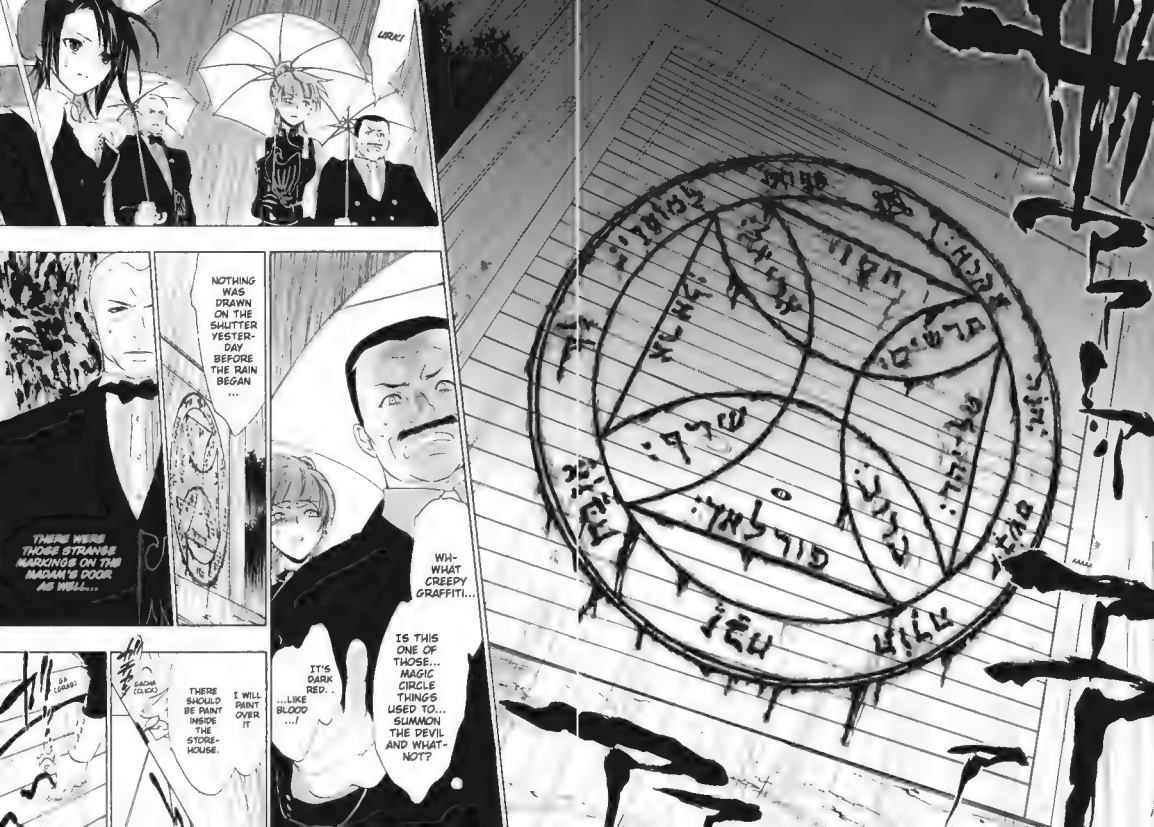

YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THEM?
SIGH...
I WILL PREPARE TEA FOR OUR GUESTS.
THEY MUST BE SOMEWHERE ON THE ISLAND. THEY'LL COME BACK WHEN THEY'RE HUNGRY.
I HAVE A FEELING I'M GOING TO BE MURDERED TONIGHT.
BATAN (SLAM)
M-MADAM, I HAVE MORE TO REPORT...


WELL... SOMETHING IS WRONG...
...AT THE ROSE GARDEN'S STORAGE SHED...
WHAT IS IT, KANON-KUN?
.....


ROSE GARDEN STORAGE SHED?
WHAT ABOUT IT?
WELL... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT...
.....
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE KANON-KUN I KNOW.
I WAS JUST COMING BACK TO GET THE KEY. I WILL GO AND INVESTIGATE.
OH?
WE'LL JOIN YOU.
.....
!
GYU (TUG)
GATA (THUMP)


UH ...
OKAY ...
UU, UUU!
UUU! BATTLER HAS TO WATCH TV TOO!
ZAAAAAA (FSHHH)
SPONSORED BY OTTN EXPRESS
BASHA
BASHA
BASHA
BASHA
BASHA
RIGHT THIS WAY.
WATCH YOUR STEP.


SO THERE'S A SHED WAY OUT HERE...?
AND? WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
BASHA
BASHA
GU (SSK)


URK!
NOTHING WAS DRAWN ON THE SHUTTER YESTERDAY BEFORE THE RAIN BEGAN ...
THERE WERE THOSE STRANGE MARKINGS ON THE MADAM'S DOOR AS WELL...
WH-WHAT CREEPY GRAFFITI...
IS THIS ONE OF THOSE... MAGIC CIRCLE THINGS USED TO... SUMMON THE DEVIL AND WHAT-NOT?
IT'S DARK RED. .
...LIKE BLOOD ...!
I WILL PAINT OVER IT
THERE SHOULD BE PAINT INSIDE THE STORE-HOUSE.
GA (GRAB)
KACHA (CLICK)


KA (FLASH)
.....
.....!!?
BOTO (PLOP)


DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DDD
HMM?
DO (STOMP)
DA (TMP)
DA
DA
DA
DA
DDD
ZEE (WHEEZE)
ZEE
GENJI-SAN?


TA (ITEKI)
...WHAT IS IT?
DA (TIMP)
DA
DA
DADA (DASH)
...!?
GI (CREAK)


...I WONDER WHAT THAT'S ALL ABOUT. THEY SEEMED PRETTY PANICKED...
WAS THERE AN ACCIDENT OR SOMETHING...?
LET'S GO SEE FOR OURSELVES.
WE DON'T WANNA BE THE ONLY ONES LEFT OUT.
MARIA! YOU WANNA COME?
OR YOU WANNA WATCH TV?
UUU. MARIA WANTS TV!
FINE, LET'S JUST GO!
WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK, MARIA-CHAN!
DA DA DA


GORO
GORO
GORO (RUMBLE)
KANON-KUN WAS TALKING ABOUT THE STORAGE SHED EARLIER!
YOU THINK THAT'S THE PLACE!?
THAT'S THIS WAY!
BASHA (SPLASH)
BASHA
BASHA
BASHA
IT WAS STRANGE HOW FREAKED OUT THEY LOOKED.
IT DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT FOR THAT, THOUGH.
DID THEY FIND OUR PARENTS?
ZAAAAAA (SHH)


DAM-MIT!
IT FEELS LIKE THE WIND JUST PICKED UP A LITTLE STRONGER.
IT'S NOT JUST THE LIGHTNING AND THE CLOUDS... IT'S LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE ENVELOPING THE ISLAND...
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING STIRRING IN MY CHEST...
BASHA
BASHA
BASHA
BASHA
BASHA


ZAAAAAA (RAIN)


AA
BASHA
BASHA (SPLASH)


HA (GASP)
IT'S LIKE RUST...AND SOMETHING RAW AND PUNGENT...
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?


SA
YOU MUSTN'T COME HERE!
RETURN TO THE MANSION!!
STAY AWAY!!
ZAAAAA
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, AUNT NATSUHI?
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?
BASHA
BASHA


BASHA
BASHA (SPLASH)
WH...
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...!?
GORO
GORO (RUMBLE)
I KNOW THOSE CLOTHES ...
DO NOT COME OVER HERE !!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!!


THAT'S MY DAD AND KYRIE-SAN!
BASHA
BAT-TLER-KUN!!

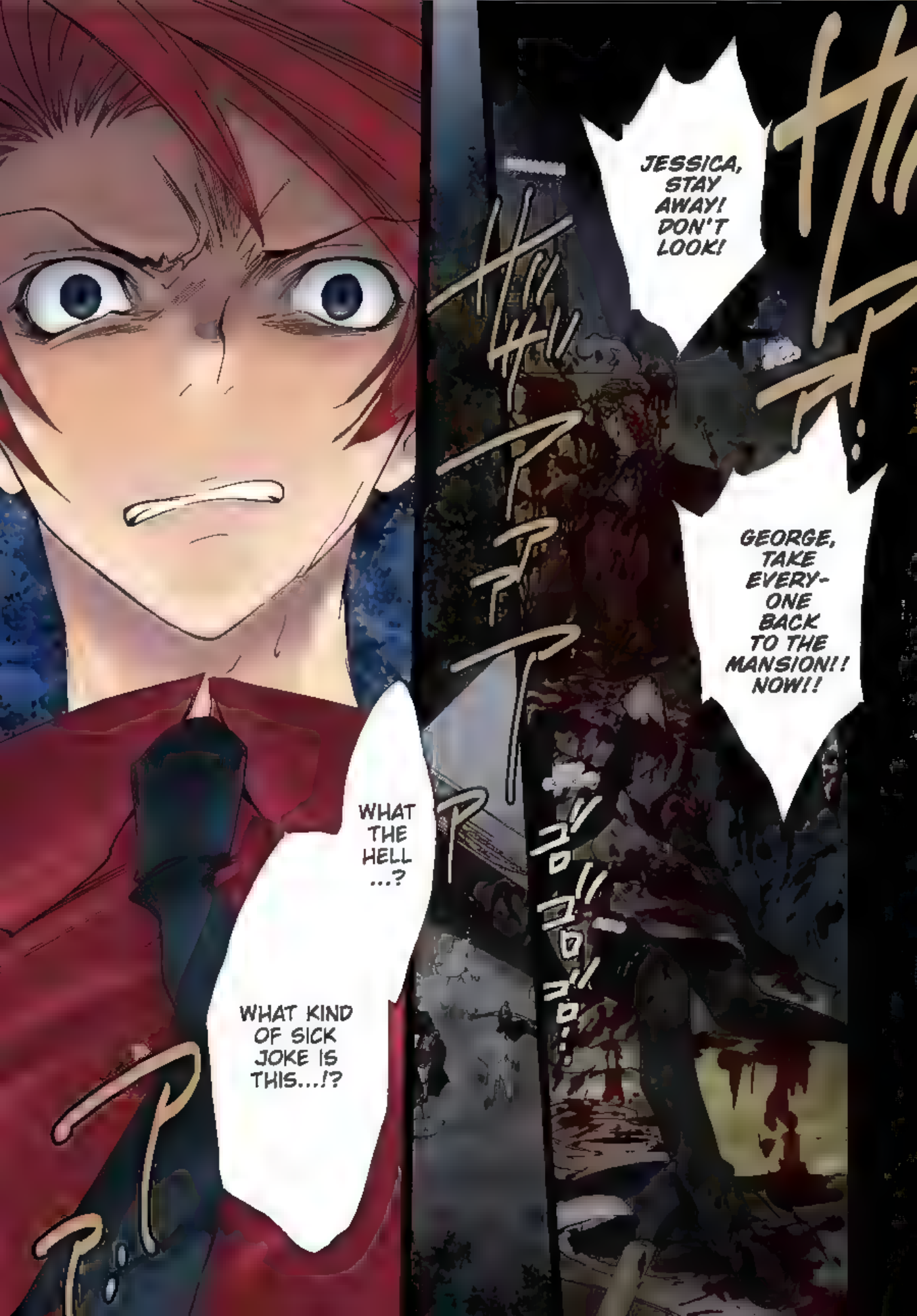

WHAT KIND OF SICK JOKE IS THIS...?
THAT'S...
BIGHA (SPUSH)
BIGHA
...THAT'S MY OLD MAN... AND KYRIE-SAN.....
...RIGHT ...?
C'MON ...
...TALK TO ME HERE...
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN...?
WHY ARE THEY LIKE THIS...?
KA (CRUSH)
WHY DON'T THEY...

...HAVE ANY FACES!!?

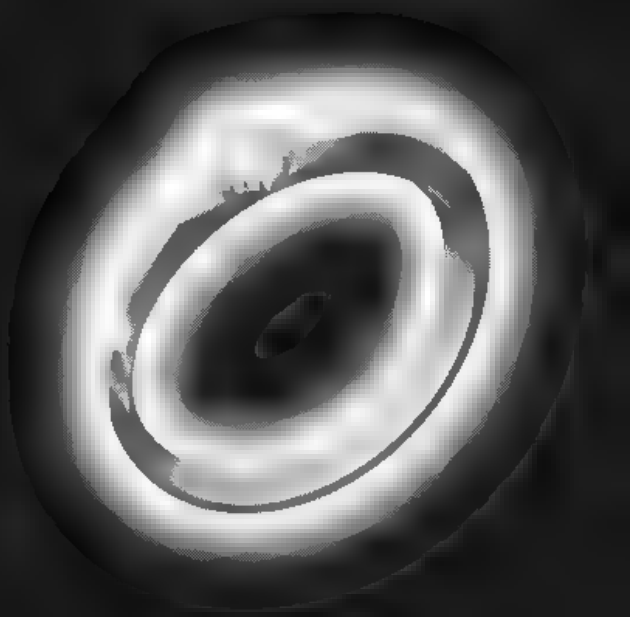

EUGH...
DON'T LOOK, JESSICA!!
...FA... CES...?
BYLAAAA (WHCOOOSH)
AAAA
AAA

AAAAA
WAAAAA


Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch


JESSICA, STAY AWAY! DON'T LOOK!
GEORGE, TAKE EVERY-ONE BACK TO THE MANSION!! NOW!!
WHAT THE HELL ...?
WHAT KIND OF SICK JOKE IS THIS...!?


Chapter 8: The First Night ②



AAAAAAAAAH!!!
DAN (WILLIAM)
YOU HAVE TO BE FUCKING KIDDING ME!!
DAN
HOW COULD SOME-THING LIKE THIS HAP-PEN !!?
DAN


NNGH...
THEIR FACES ARE GONE, DAMMIT...
THEIR FACES ARE GONE!! AHHH!!!
NO...
NOOO!
WHEN PEOPLE SAY YOU HAVE A "CULTIVATED FACE," THIS ISN'T WHAT THEY MEAN!!!
AREN'T THE DEAD SUPPOSED TO HAVE A LOOK OF PEACEFUL SLEEP ON THEIR FACES!?
WHAT'S WITH THIS PERFECT CORPSE MAKE-UP!!?


WHAT A SICK MIND!! THIS IS THE WORK OF THE DEVIL!
AUTOPSIES ARE OUTSIDE OF MY EXPERTISE...BUT LOOKING AT THE DAMAGE, I THINK IT'S LIKELY IT WAS INFLICTED AFTER DEATH...
...THE STATE OF RIGOR MORTIS IS CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE BODIES...I'D SAY IT'S BEEN AT LEAST SIX HOURS SINCE THEIR DEATHS.
AAAAAAAAH (FSHHH)
GORO
GORO
I WAS SURE YOU WERE GOING TO HELL, YOU KNOW...?
BUT THERE'S NO WAY... YOU WERE BAD ENOUGH TO DESERVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!
DAD...
SO KILLIN' 'EM WASN'T ENOUGH— THEY HADDA BE MUTILATED AFTER THAT!?
.....!!


NEITHER WAS KYRIE-SAN
YEAH, I THOUGHT SHE WAS ANNOYING AT TIMES...BUT SHE WAS REALLY MORE LIKE A COOL OLDER SISTER...
EVEN UNCLE KRAUSS'
AND GOUDA-SAN
AND AUNT ROSA


AAAAH...AAH...!!
THERE'S NO REASON THIS SHOULD'VE HAPPENED TO ANY OF THEM!
ULU
UNUGH
STOP IT, BATTLER-KUN! SETTLE DOWN!
ANIKI!
ANIKI...


/ZAAAAA
(SSVH)


...ARE THERE ONLY...
...FIVE BODIES?
.....
DAD...


I HEAR **-CHAN HASN'T BEEN FOUND EITHER.
KRAUSS-SAN, RUDOLF, KYRIE-SAN, ROSA, AND GOUDA-SAN.
PLUS... I HEAR **-CHAN HASN'T BEEN FOUND EITHER.
...NO...
...THERE'S ONE MORE OVER HERE...
.....
THEN...


...THAT MUST BE... SHANNON... AT YOUR FEET...


...YEAH.
IT'S... SHANNON-CHAN..
EVEN SHANNON-CHAN'S BEEN KILLED?
EVEN SHANNON-CHAN?
BUT SHE'S... GEORGE-ANIKI'S... SWEET-HEART!
WHAT THE HELL!? HOW MANY OF OUR LOVED ONES HAVE TO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM US...!?


DO YOU THINK... I COULD LOOK AT HER... ONE LAST TIME .....?
GIRIRI (GRIT)
...DAD... IS SHANNON... LIKE THE OTHER BODIES .....?
.....
GEORGE ...
...HOW DID SHANNON-CHAN LOOK... THE LAST TIME YOU SAW HER...?
...I WANT AN ANSWER BY TOMORROW, SAYO.


I WANT TO SEE A SIGN OF YOUR OWN WILL, SAYO.
KOKU (NOD)
こく…
SHE TOOK THE RING...
...HESITANTLY, EVEN THOUGH HER MIND MUST HAVE BEEN MADE UP...
SHE NODDED... SHYLY...
AND THAT WAS... HER FINAL SMILE...
SHE HAD... A BEAUTIFUL SMILE ON HER FACE...
...I SEE.


IN THAT CASE...
...SHANNON-CHAN WOULD HAVE WANTED TO LEAVE THAT SMILE WITH YOU.
.....
GEORGE-SAN.


.....
HNG.
GEORGE-SAN.
NNG ...


AAAH ...
GH
NNH ..
AAUH ...
ZU (SLIDE)
ZuZu
AH AH. .
AHH
NGH.
SHE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE HER IN THAT STATE... SHE'S HAPPY YA HELD IT IN AND STAYED AWAY...
I KNOW... SHE'S SAYIN' THANK YOU, GEORGE...
I KNOW...
I KNOW, DAD...


DANT
(WHAMO)
....
AUH...
AH...
SUCH AN ATROCITY!
PASH!
(SMACK)
IF HER FACE HAD BEEN TURNED ALL THE WAY TO A PULP, GEORGE COULDA FOOLED HIMSELF FOR AN INSTANT, TOLD HIS MIND IT WAS ANOTHER PERSON IN SHANNON'S CLOTHES...
...BUT INSTEAD, HALF HER FACE IS LEFT...JUST SO YOU KNOW IT'S HER FOR SURE!
THIS COULD DESTROY GEORGE'S HEART FOR LIFE...!


...CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING, DAD...?
DOES SHANNON HAVE...
...A RING ON HER FINGER...?
(ZARI SCRAPE)
RING ..?


EVA!! NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT!!
GEORGE, YOU DIDN'T...
THERE IS...
...A DIAMOND RING... ON HER LEFT HAND...
SO SHE WAS ENGAGED, EH...?
A MAN MADE SHANNON-CHAN A PROMISE TO SECURE HER FUTURE! IT'S EVERY WOMAN'S DREAM!
I DUNNO WHO GAVE HER THAT RING OR WHEN...
...BUT SHE WAS GIVEN A RING! AND SHE PUT THAT RING ON HER LEFT RING FINGER, KNOWIN' EXACTLY WHAT THAT MEANT!
I BET WHOEVER GAVE HER THAT RING WAS A HAPPY MAN...


...I SEE...
THANKS ...DAD...
ZA (ZSH)
LET'S GO, BATTLER-KUN, JESSICA-CHAN.
WE'RE ONLY IN THE ADULTS' WAY HERE...
KOKU (NOD)
SORRY FOR LOSING IT LIKE THAT...
MY STUPID OLD MAN... WOULD LAUGH AT ME...
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT... WE'RE HARD-WIRED TO CRY WHEN OUR PARENTS DIE...ON THE GENETIC LEVEL...

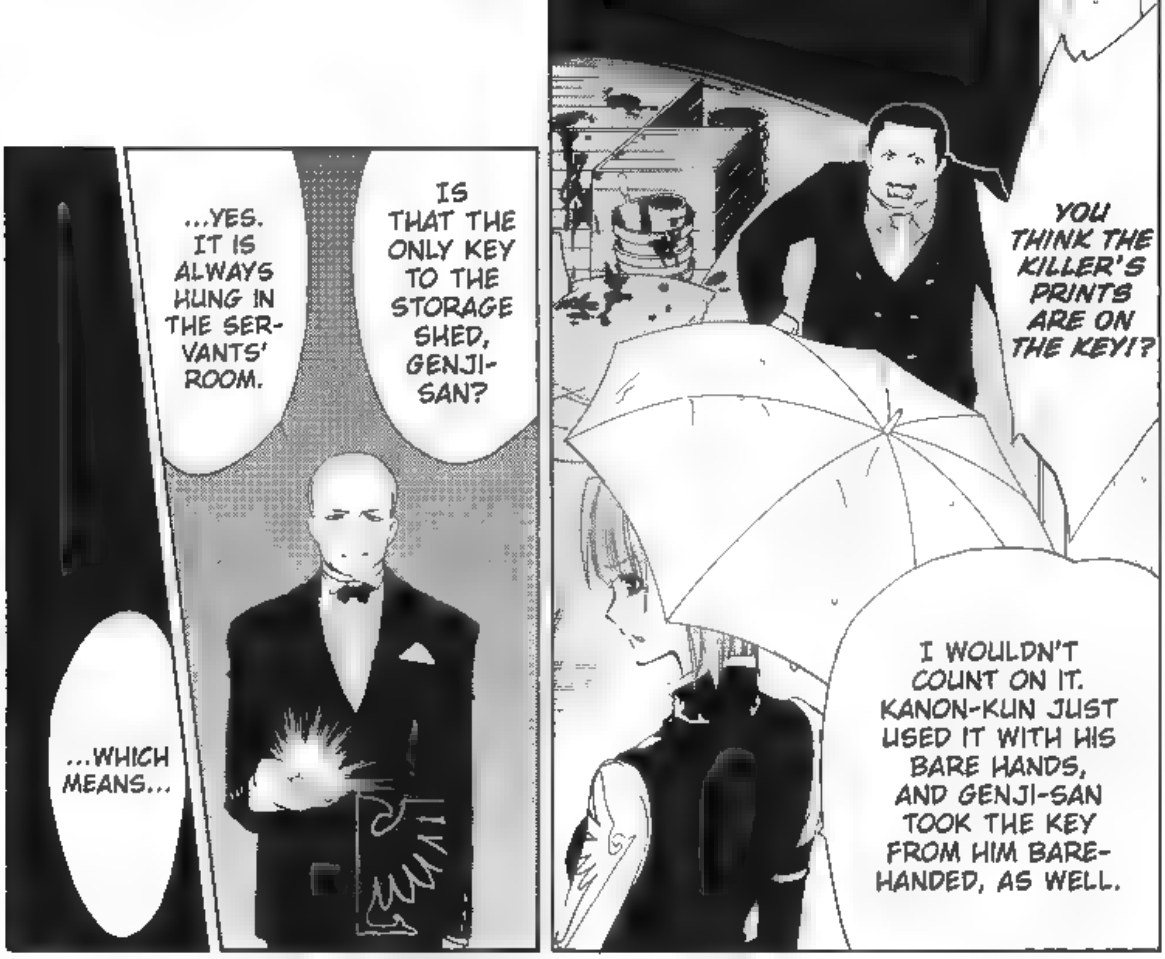

...YES... MADAM...
GO, KANON... GO BACK TO THE MANSION WITH THE CHILDREN...


ZAAAAAA (FSWH)

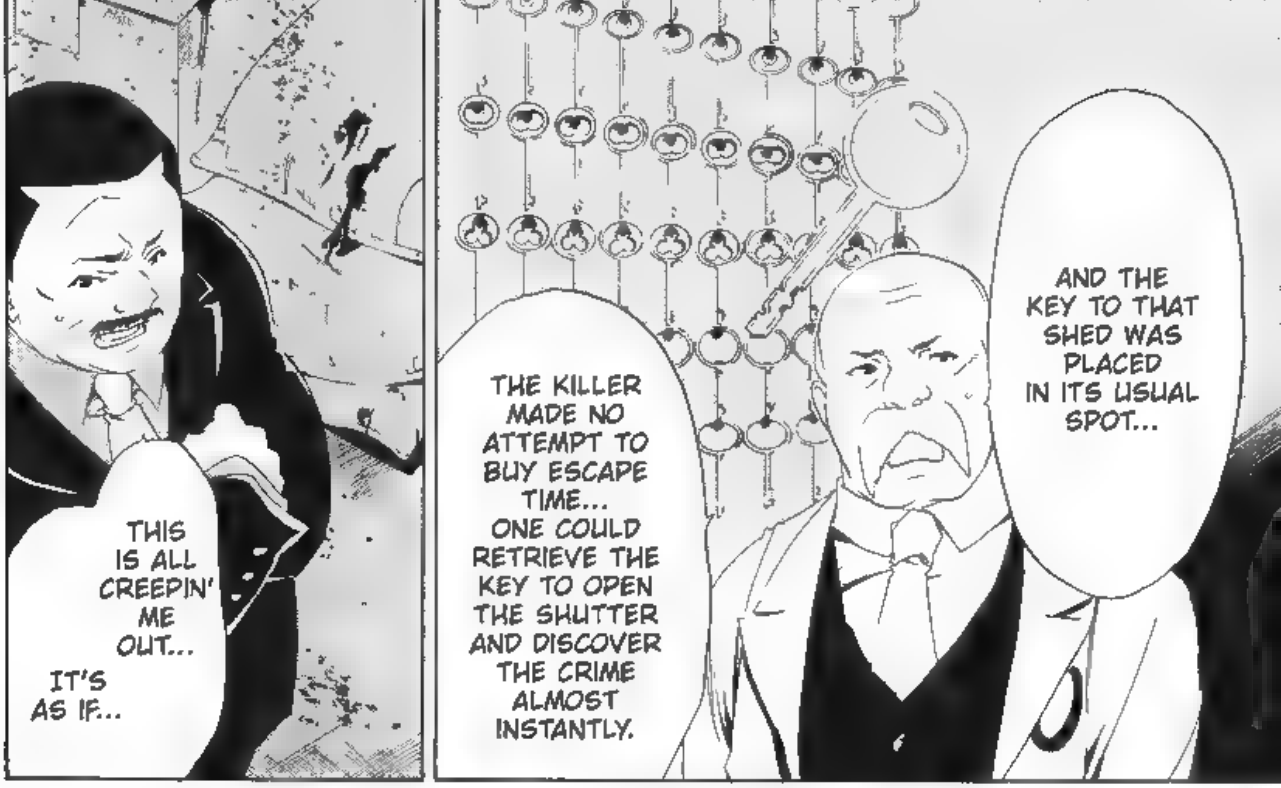

AND...CAN WE AT LEAST COVER THEIR FACES WITH SOMETHING? IT SEEMS SO HUMILIATING TO LEAVE THEM LOOKING LIKE THIS...
YES, MADAM. I WILL USE THE EMERGENCY WIRELESS.
THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COME UNTIL THE STORM HAS PASSED, BUT YOU CAN AT LEAST RECEIVE DIRECTIONS.
LET THE POLICE KNOW AT ONCE, GENJI


...JUST BY COVERING THEIR FACES...?
IF YOU INTERFERE, IT MIGHT PREVENT THE POLICE FROM DOING THEIR JOB!
JUST A MINUTE! THIS IS A CRIME SCENE!


...VERY WELL. CLOSE THE SHUTTER AND ADD A DIFFERENT LOCK, JUST IN CASE.
...A DIFFERENT LOCK?
I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE IT AS IS UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE...
BUT NATSUHI-SAN...THIS IS NOT AN ACCIDENT. THIS WAS MURDER.
WHEN WE CAME HERE, THE SHUTTER WAS CLOSED AND LOCKED...
...MEANING THE KILLER WAS THE ONE WHO LOCKED IT.


YOU THINK THE KILLER'S PRINTS ARE ON THE KEY!?
I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT. KANON-KUN JUST USED IT WITH HIS BARE HANDS, AND GENJI-SAN TOOK THE KEY FROM HIM BARE-HANDED, AS WELL.
IS THAT THE ONLY KEY TO THE STORAGE SHED, GENJI-SAN?
...YES. IT IS ALWAYS HUNG IN THE SER-VANTS' ROOM.
...WHICH MEANS...
...THE KILLER TOOK IT FROM THE SERVANTS' ROOM... THEN MADE SURE TO PUT IT RIGHT BACK IN ITS PLACE AFTERWARD...?
?


THAT'S WEIRD.
WHY WOULDJA STEAL A KEY JUST TO PUT IT RIGHT BACK IN THE SAME PLACE...?
SPEAKING OF WEIRD, HOW ABOUT THAT DISGUST-ING GRAFFITI?
IF A KILLER WAS GOING TO HIDE A BODY... WOULDN'T HE RATHER PUT OFF THE DISCOVERY TO GIVE HIM MORE TIME TO GET AWAY...?
INSTEAD, THERE'S A HUGE SYMBOL RIGHT IN PLAIN SIGHT...
...AS IF TO SAY, "SOMETHING'S WRONG INSIDE, OPEN UP AND FIND OUT WHAT IT IS."

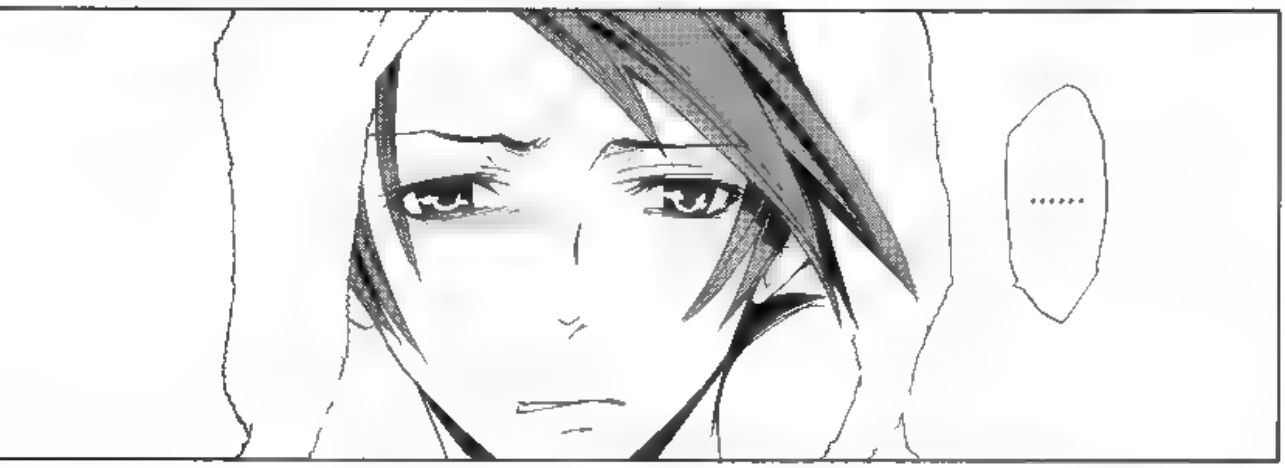

THIS IS ALL CREEPIN' ME OUT... IT'S AS IF...
THE KILLER MADE NO ATTEMPT TO BUY ESCAPE TIME... ONE COULD RETRIEVE THE KEY TO OPEN THE SHUTTER AND DISCOVER THE CRIME ALMOST INSTANTLY.
AND THE KEY TO THAT SHED WAS PLACED IN ITS USUAL SPOT...


GORO
GORO
GORO
...THEY'RE JUST ASKIN' US TO FIND THE BODIES...
GORO (RUMBLE)
GORO
GORO
WELL, WE CANNOT TRUST ANY LOCK USED BY THE KILLER ALREADY. THIS WILL PROTECT THE SCENE FROM WHOEVER DID THIS...!


GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
...I WILL HAVE A BRAND-NEW PADLOCK AFFIXED.
GAKIN (CLINK)
WHAT ABOUT THE KEY?
I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT UNTIL I CAN HAND IT OVER TO THE POLICE.
ZAAAAA (FSHH)
AAAAA (FSHH)
AAA

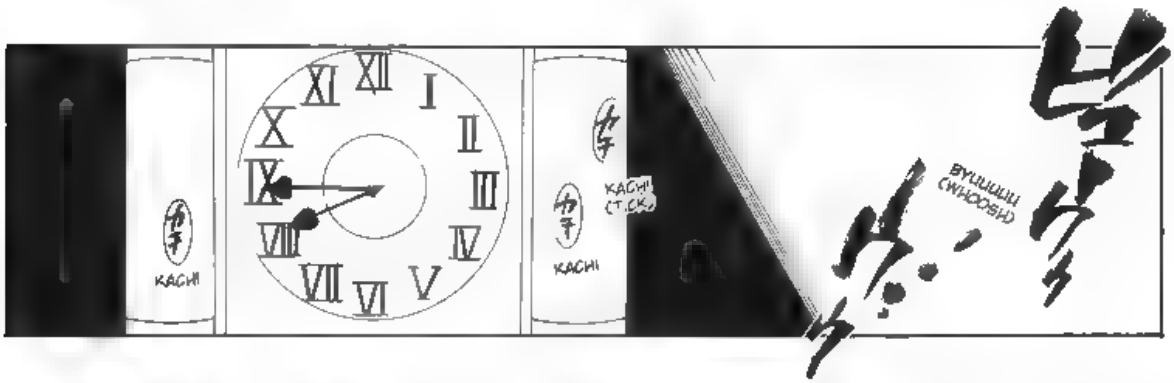

KETA (CACKLE)
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA

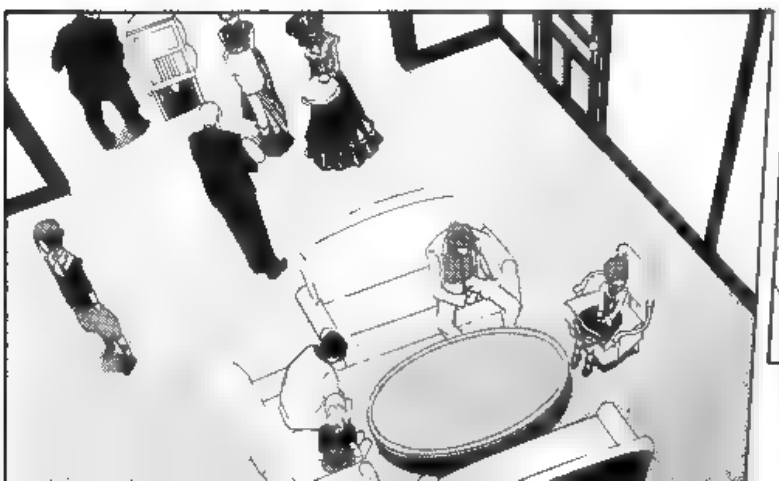

KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA
KETA


.....


MARIA...
...AUNT ROSA IS DEAD.


YOUR MOM IS DEAD, KID...
KUSHA (CRUMPLE)
...uuu?

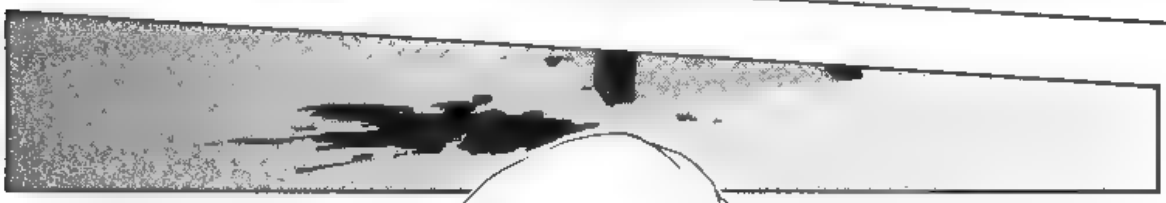

KACHI
KACHI
KACHI (T.CK)
BYUUUUU (WHOOSH)




HOW COULD THEY GET THAT WAY?
IT'S THE DEVIL'S WORK!
IT JUST CAN'T BE!


I WILL GO TALK TO FATHER. GENJI, CONTACT THE POLICE NOW.
...AS YOU WISH.
I WILL JOIN YOU, NATSUHI-NEESAN. NOW THAT KRAUSS-NIISAN IS DEAD, I AM OFFICIALLY FATHER'S COUNSELOR ACCORDING TO THE LINE OF SUCCESSION.
RIGHT?
I...I WAS GOING TO SET THE TABLE FOR BREAKFAST, BUT...
WHAT'S TH' MATTER, KUMA-SAWA-SAN?
BATA (THUMP)
BATA
BATA
BATA
AHH... AHHHH ...
...THERE'S BLOOD IN THE DINING ROOM!

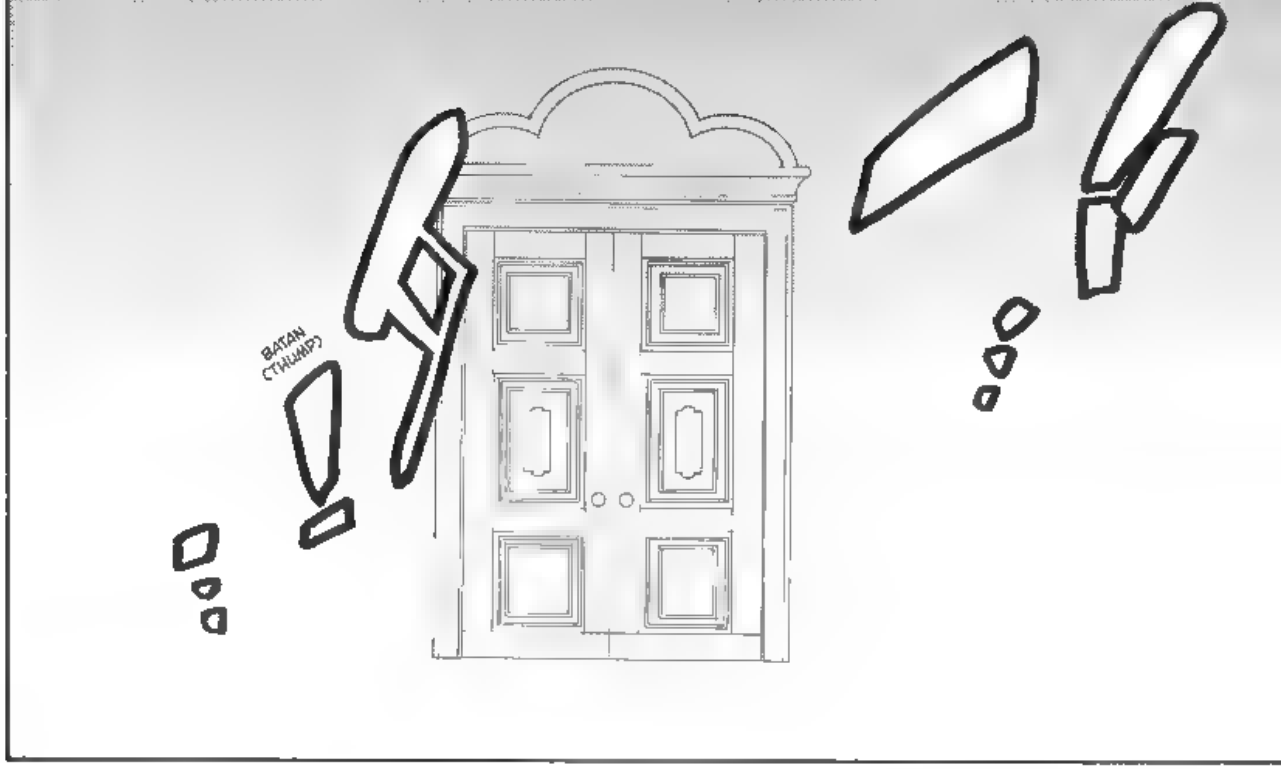


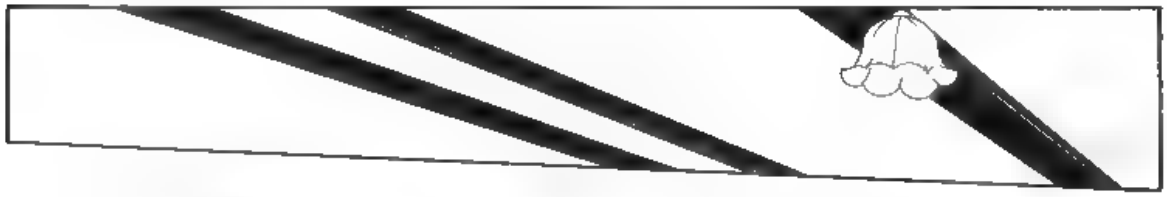



MOST LIKELY THIS IS WHERE KRAUSS-SAN AND THE OTHERS WERE KILLED LAST NIGHT...
...IT'S MINOR COMPARED TO WHAT WE SAW AT THE STORAGE SHED, BUT IT'S STILL A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF BLOOD. AND IT SEEMS TO HAVE DRIED SOME TIME AGO...


ARE YOU SERIOUS ...? I CAN'T TAKE IT...
FURA (SWOON)
WE WERE TALKIN' IN THE DINING ROOM ALL LAST NIGHT... EVA AND I DIDN'T LEAVE UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT.
SO IT MUSTA BEEN AFTER THAT...


THIS IS THE DINING ROOM...
THIS IS THE PLACE... WHERE I EAT EVERY DAY... SHARING SILLY STORIES WITH MY FAMILY AND THE SERVANTS...
JUST YESTERDAY, THE ENTIRE FAMILY WAS SITTING AROUND THE TABLE, ENJOYING OUR DINNER...!
MISS, STAYING HERE WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD... LET'S RETURN TO THE GUEST ROOM.
I AGREE... WE SHOULDN'T DISTURB THIS PLACE BEFORE THE POLICE GET HERE.


BATAN (THUMP)




...I PROPOSED TO SHANNON.


LAST NIGHT ...


HA HA...
GI (CREAK)


I GAVE HER A RING...
...AND TOLD HER TO PUT IT ON WHATEVER FINGER SHE WANTED TODAY AS HER ANSWER. I THOUGHT I WAS BEING SO COOL...


A FEW YEARS AGO, SHANNON ASKED ME FOR ADVICE ABOUT GEORGE-NIISAN...
SHE WAS NEVER A GOOD LIAR, SO IT WAS TOTALLY OBVIOUS WHO SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
WONDERING IF IT WAS RIGHT FOR HER TO BE CLOSE TO SOMEONE ABOVE HER STATION.
ASKING WHAT GUYS LIKE...WHAT SORT OF CLOTHES SHE SHOULD WEAR, AND SO ON...
EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN VALUES, BUT I THINK THAT IN A WAY, BEING PROPOSED TO IS ONE OF THE GREAT MILESTONES IN LIFE.
SO I THINK LAST NIGHT... SHANNON WAS PROBABLY THE HAPPIEST SHE'D EVER BEEN IN HER LIFE...


LAST NIGHT, SHANNON WAS ON SHIFT IN THE GUESTHOUSE...
.....
.....
BUT SHE WAS TOO ASHAMED TO COME BACK TO THE GUESTHOUSE WITH ME... AND WENT TO THE MANSION INSTEAD, DESPITE IT NOT BEING HER SHIFT...
AND THAT'S WHEN SHE WAS TARGETED BY THIS HORRIBLE MURDERER!
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
IF ONLY I HADN'T CHOSEN THAT DAY! THAT PLACE! THAT TIME! TO GIVE HER THE RING...
BORO (DRIP)
...SHANNON WOULDN'T HAVE DIED...!!!


ANIKI!
YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THAT, AND YOU KNOW IT!
DON'T GIVE YOURSELF ANY MORE TO CRY ABOUT!!
AH...
AHH...
UNNH... UUH...


SHIT, SHIT, SHIT!! I HATE WHOEVER KILLED OUR PARENTS SO MUCH!!
I'M GONNA FIND THEM... AND TEAR THEM APART WITH MY BARE HANDS...!!
RRR-RGH!!
UUU.
DID SOMEONE DIE, JESSICA-ONEECHAN?


...!
THEY'RE DEAD! THEY'RE ALL DEAD!! MY DAD! BATTLER'S DAD AND MOM!! GOUDA-SAN AND SHANNON!!
EVEN YOUR MOM, MARIA!!
STOP IT, JESSICA-CHAN! YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN MOURN-ING...!
LISTEN, MARIA... SOMEONE KILLED YOUR MOM...
I KNOW IT'S SAD, BUT YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG...
HOW MANY...
...DIED?


SIX! SIX PEOPLE DEAD!!!
UUUU...
JESSICA-ONEE-CHAN...
...IS RIGHT.
IT WAS SO CRUEL AND VIOLENT!! WHOEVER IT WAS, THE KILLER CAN'T BE HUMAN!! NO ONE WITH RED BLOOD IN THEIR VEINS COULD DO SUCH A THING!!
THE CULPRIT ISN'T HUMAN.


I JUST CHOSE...
...★★★. THAT'S ALL.

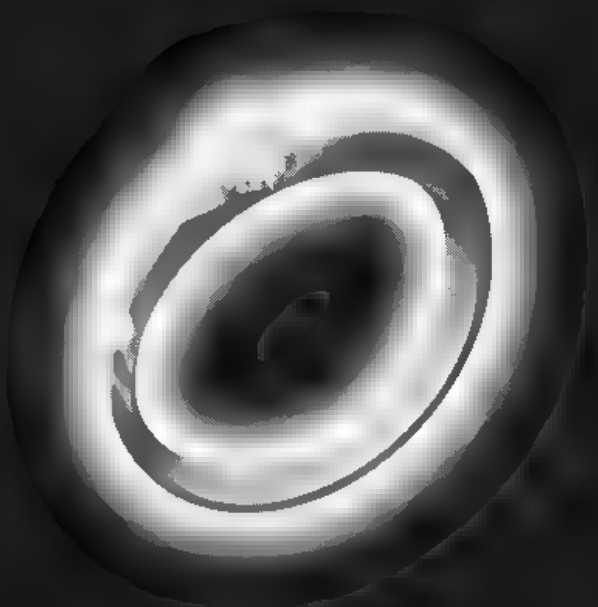

...
HUH?
SU (SHIP?)
MARIA...
...WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
.....?


WHY DID WE INSTALL AN EMERGENCY WIRELESS SYSTEM IF IT DOESN'T EVEN WORK!?
YOU CAN'T REACH ANYONE WITH THE WIRELESS!?
DON'T WE HAVE IT INSPECTED EVERY YEAR!?
ZAWAA (MURMUR)
FORGIVE ME, MADAM. I DO NOT KNOW IF THE RADIO IS BROKEN OR IF THERE IS SOME OTHER CAUSE...
THE SHIP SHOULD COME IN TOMORROW MORNING, AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE THEIR RADIO...
AND THERE AIN'T NO SHIPS ON THE ISLAND!?
KRAUSS-SAMA'S BOAT IS ON THE MAINLAND BEING REPAIRED. BUT EVEN IF WE HAD IT, THIS WEATHER WOULD KEEP US STRANDED...


Y-YA CAN'T BE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS! WE GOT SIX DEAD ON OUR HANDS!!
WE HAVE NOTHING OF THAT MANNER... EITHER WAY, I BELIEVE WE MUST WAIT FOR THE MORROW...
WHAT ABOUT SOME KINDA FLICKERING LIGHT WE CAN USE TO SEND MESSAGES OUT TO SEA...?
...WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ...?
YOU WANT US TO SIT HERE ON THIS ISLAND...
...DOIN' ABSOLUTELY NOTHIN' UNTIL THE STORM PASSES AND A SHIP COMES!?


SO WE CAN'T GET OFF THE ISLAND OR CALL FOR HELP...!?
W-WAIT A SEC-OND...
THAT MEANS ...


THE TYPHOON HAS KNOCKED OUT OUR ONLY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION SINCE YESTERDAY EVENING.
THAT MEANS WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN'T GET OFF THE ISLAND UNTIL AT LEAST TOMORROW MORNING...
IT MEANS...
...WHOEVER KILLED THOSE SIX PEOPLE IS STILL HERE ON THE ISLAND TOO...!!!




Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch

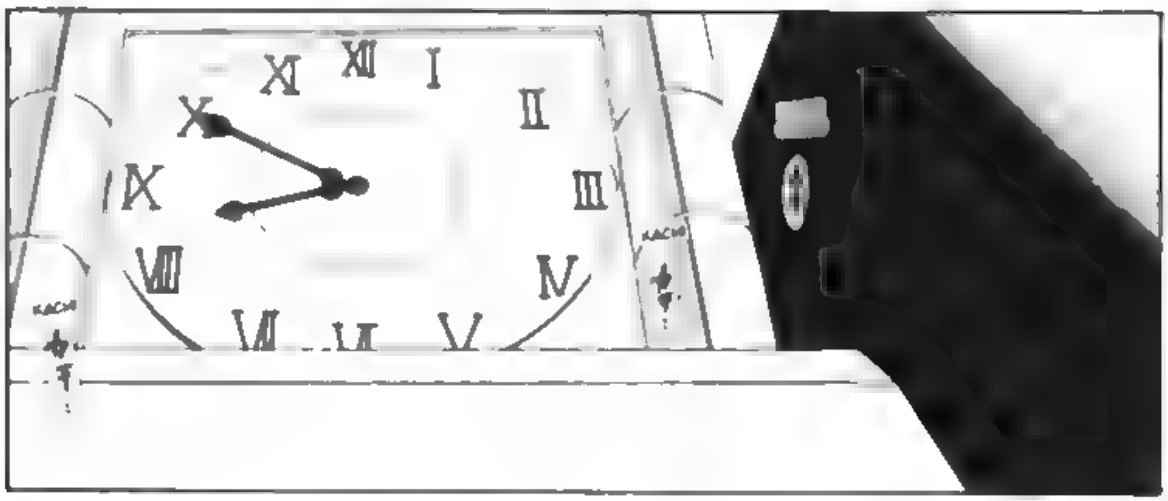

SO WHOEVER KILLED THOSE SIX PEOPLE IS STILL HERE ON THE ISLAND!?
WHAT ARE WE S'POSED TA DO ...?
.....!
I KNOW! FATHER! WE'LL ASK FATHER FOR INSTRUC-TIONS!
YOU TWO JUST CAME BACK FROM SEEIN' FATHER, RIGHT!?

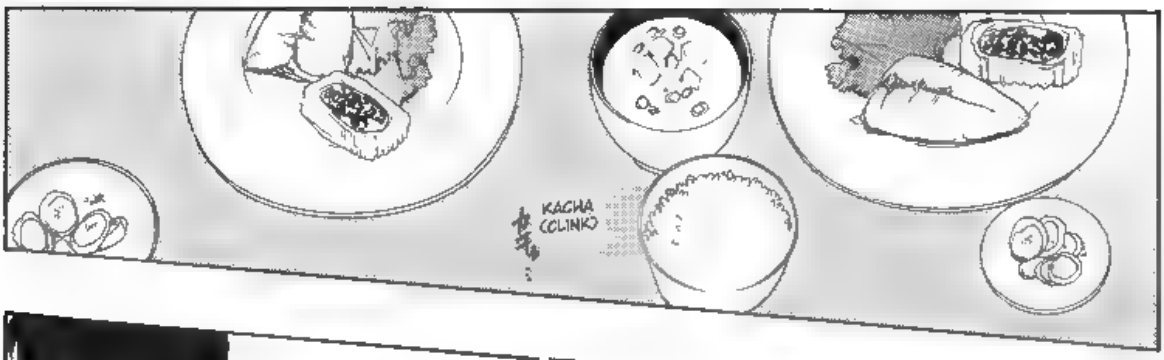

FATHER WASN'T THERE.
HIS ROOM WAS EMPTY.


MY LORD'S STUDY IS OUTFITTED AS BOTH A PLACE TO SLEEP AND PERFORM HIS USUAL BUSINESS. HE WOULD ONLY LEAVE THAT ROOM...
...IF SOME DIRE REASON CALLED HIM OUT...
THE MASTER HAS LEFT HIS STUDY...?
YES. IT WAS A SHOCK TO ME TOO. WHEN COULD HE HAVE LEFT...?




# Chapter 9: The Witch's Sacrifices



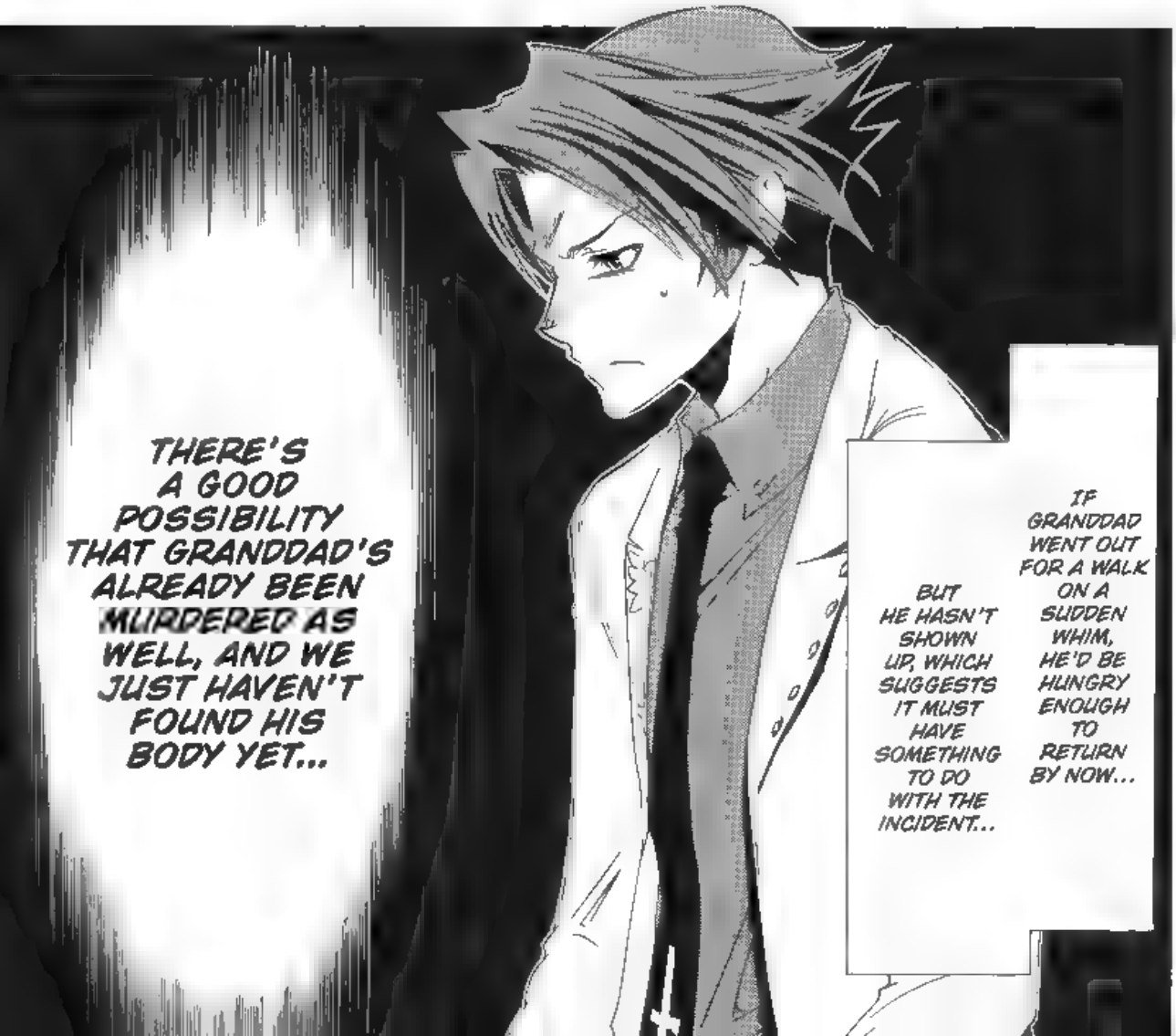

KACHA
(CLINK)


MOGO


MOGO
(MUNCH)
MOGO


AS WE SAT THERE EATING THE BREAKFAST THAT KUMASAWA-SAN HAD PREPARED... I MULLED OVER THE INFORMATION WE HAD AT HAND.
MOGO
MOKYU
MOKYU
(CHOMP)


SIX MUTILATED CORPSES WERE DISCOVERED, AND WE HAVE NO MEANS OF CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
GRANDDAD'S GONE MISSING.
WHEN AUNT NATSUHI AND EVA WENT TO CALL ON HIM, THEY SEARCHED ALL OVER THE MANSION AND COULDN'T FIND HIM.


IF GRANDDAD WENT OUT FOR A WALK ON A SUDDEN WHIM, HE'D BE HUNGRY ENOUGH TO RETURN BY NOW...
BUT HE HASN'T SHOWN UP, WHICH SUGGESTS IT MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE INCIDENT...
THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT GRANDDAD'S ALREADY BEEN MURDERED AS WELL, AND WE JUST HAVEN'T FOUND HIS BODY YET...


BATAN (THUMP)
WE WILL LEAVE TO SEARCH FOR FATHER AND CHECK THE WINDOWS AND DOORS.
DO NOT LEAVE THIS ROOM WHILE WE'RE OUT.
EVA-SAN, HIDEYOSHI-SAN, NANJOU-SENSEI...
...PLEASE WATCH THE CHILDREN.
OKAY, KIDS... LET'S WATCH SOME TV WHILE WE WAIT!
UUU, WATCH TV!


EVEN AFTER HEARING OF HER MOTHER'S DEATH, MARIA'S SHOWED NO REAL CHANGE IN EMOTION.
DOES SHE NOT HAVE A STRONG GRASP OF THE CONCEPT OF DEATH...? IS A NINE-YEAR-OLD NORMALLY SO... CHILDISH?


JESSICA IS COMFORTING HIM, BUT SHE'S CLEARLY FEELING THE SAME INSIDE...
BY CONTRAST, GEORGE-ANIKI IS TOTALLY SUBDUED.
000
WHAT'S WITH THE SCARY LOOK ON YOUR FACE?

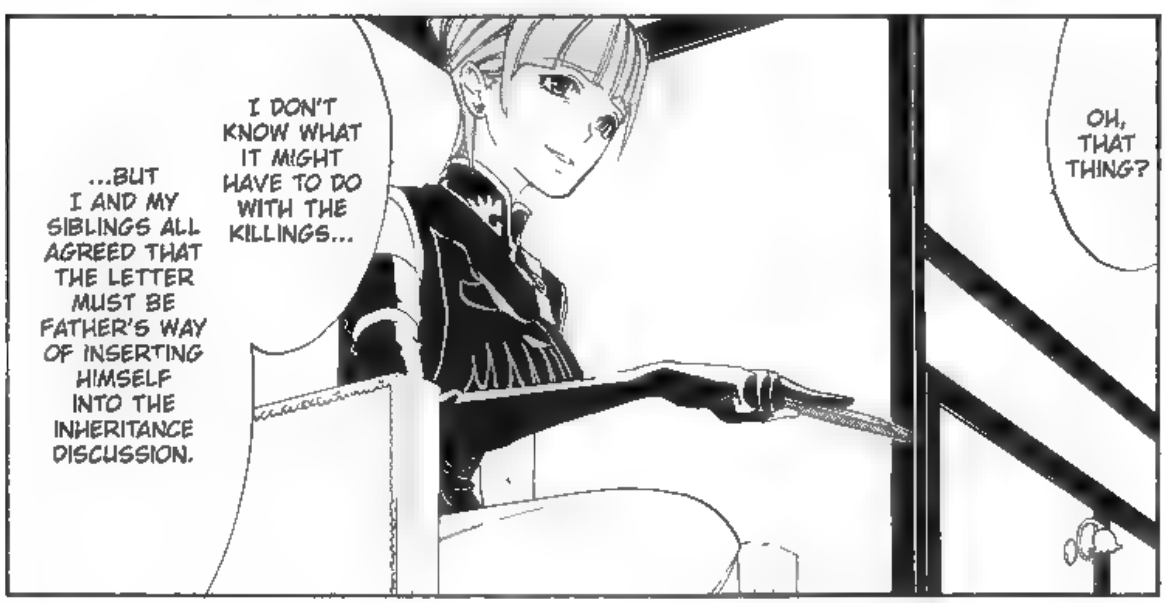

GIGHI (CREAK)
IT'S SUCH A SHAME WHAT HAPPENED TO RUDOLF AND KYRIE-SAN... ANGE-CHAN IS GOING TO BE SO DEVASTATED WHEN SHE FINDS OUT...
AUNT EVA...


SPEAKING OF HER, I HEAR SHE TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE AND IS RECUPERATING WITH KYRIE-SAN'S FAMILY?
IT'S STRANGE TO SAY, BUT I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING SHE DIDN'T COME THIS YEAR...
YEAH, TRUE...
YOU LOOK SO MUCH STRONGER AND COMPOSED NOW, BATTLER-KUN. ESPECIALLY AFTER THE WAY YOU WERE CRYING EARLIER...
YOU'RE VERY TOUGH.
NO... I'M STILL NOT BACK ON MY FEET REALLY...


...AND I'M NOT GONNA BE SATISFIED UNTIL I'VE GIVEN HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND... OR MORE!
HE WAS ALWAYS QUICK TO CHANGE HIS MOOD...
THAT DRY MANNER AND FIERCE EMOTION IS JUST LIKE


I WONDER WHERE THIS KILLER IS HIDING ON THE ISLAND...
ZAAAA (SFX: SHIP)
I WAS JUST TALKING WITH KYRIE-SAN ABOUT THIS LAST NIGHT...
WE WERE DISCUSSING THE WITCH'S LETTER AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A NINETEENTH PERSON...


DO YOU THINK...
...THESE MURDERS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE WITCH'S LETTER FROM LAST NIGHT?
AUNT EVA.


OH, THAT THING?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MIGHT HAVE TO DO WITH THE KILLINGS...
...BUT I AND MY SIBLINGS ALL AGREED THAT THE LETTER MUST BE FATHER'S WAY OF INSERTING HIMSELF INTO THE INHERITANCE DISCUSSION.


WHEN MARIA-CHAN SAID SHE MET "BEATRICE"...
...IT WAS LIKELY JUST SHANNON-CHAN IN THE DRESS FROM THE PORTRAIT, SENT TO FOOL THE POOR GIRL.
IT'S JUST THE KIND OF CRUEL THING FATHER WOULD DO.


SO... YOU THINK BEATRICE IS ONE OF US TOO?
WHY WOULDN'T I?
WHO ASIDE FROM US WOULD BE HERE?


KYRIE-SAN DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF A NINETEENTH PERSON LAST NIGHT.
THERE IS NO NINETEENTH.
WHICH MEANS BEATRICE MUST BE ONE OF THE EIGHTEEN OF US.
THEREFORE
IF THERE ISN'T A NINE-TEENTH PERSON ON THE ISLAND...
...IT MEANS THAT WHOEVER KILLED DAD AND THE OTHERS IS ONE OF THE EIGHTEEN OF US.
LISTEN, BATTLER-KUN...
KUSU (GIGGLE)


KANON-KUN SAID HE FOUND THE KEY RIGHT BACK ON THE KEY RACK...WHERE COUNTLESS KEYS ARE STORED WITHOUT LABELS. NO ONE COULD FIND THAT KEY WITHOUT KNOWING EXACTLY WHERE TO LOOK...
DON'T YOU FIND IT EXTRAORDINARY HOW THE KILLER TRANSPORTED SIX CORPSES TO THAT SHED?
BUT SOMEHOW, THE KILLER PICKED OUT THE EXACT KEY...
...AND KNEW WHERE THE STORAGE SHED WAS AND PACKED THE BODIES INSIDE.
THE SHUTTER IS NORMALLY PADLOCKED, AND THE ONE KEY THAT OPENS IT WAS ALWAYS KEPT IN THE SERVANTS' ROOM.
THAT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE UNLESS YOU WERE FAMILIAR WITH THE SERVANTS' ROOM AND KNEW EXACTLY WHERE THE RIGHT KEY WAS.

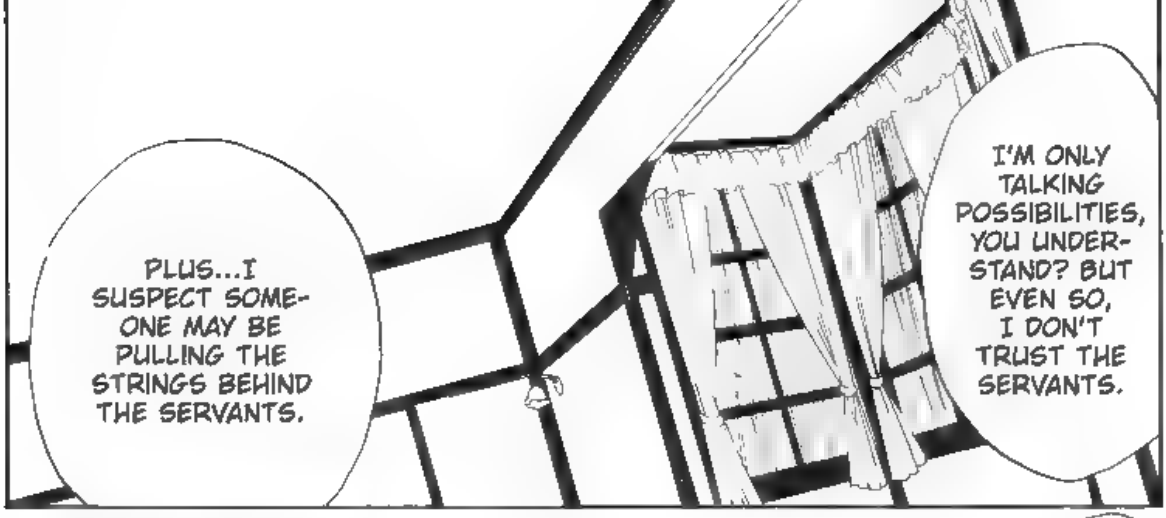

THE FAMILY ISN'T NORMALLY ALLOWED INTO THE SERVANTS' ROOM...
...WHICH WOULD NARROW DOWN THE LIST OF PEOPLE WHO COULD HAVE TAKEN THE KEY...
AND ONE MORE THING...
WE'RE PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT MULTIPLE KILLERS WHO WERE AMPLY ARMED.
MULTIPLE... ARMED?
DOESN'T IT MAKE SENSE? FOUR ADULTS IN THE DINING ROOM WERE ATTACKED AND KILLED AT ONCE.
SIX BODIES WERE TAKEN TO THE STORAGE SHED, THEN GIVEN THAT GHASTLY MAKEOVER. NOT TO MENTION THE TASTELESS GRAFFITI ON THE SHUTTER.
COULD A SINGLE KILLER HAVE DONE ALL OF THAT IN THE TIME WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.....?


I DOUBT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE PERSON TO PULL OFF...BUT CONSIDERING THE LABOR INVOLVED, IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT IT WAS MULTIPLE PEOPLE.
AND IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MULTIPLE PEOPLE WITH ACCESS TO THE KEY...
AUNT EVA... ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE SERVANTS ARE ALL WORKING TOGETH—
!


QUIET! WHAT WILL YOU DO IF IT'S TRUE?
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET US LEAVE THIS ISLAND ALIVE.


AND ME WITH MY TRAINING IN KENDO
THE CAPABLE FIGHTERS IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW ARE MY HUSBAND GEORGE, YOU...


THESE PEOPLE MANAGED TO MURDER MY BROTHERS AND SISTER WITHOUT A PROBLEM.
WOULDN'T IT BE ALL TOO EASY FOR THEM TO GET RID OF THE REST OF US?
SHE'S RIGHT. OUR SAFETY IS NOT GUARANTEED IN THE LEAST.
OUR ENEMY HAS AN OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE IN WEAPONRY, AND THEY COULD BURST IN AND ATTACK AT ANY MOMENT...
GOKU (GULP)


I'M ONLY TALKING POSSIBILITIES, YOU UNDERSTAND? BUT EVEN SO, I DON'T TRUST THE SERVANTS.
PLUS...I SUSPECT SOMEONE MAY BE PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND THE SERVANTS.


PULLING THE STRINGS?
THIS HAPPENED RIGHT IN THE MIDST OF OUR INHERITANCE DISCUSSIONS.
WOULDN'T IT BE NATURAL TO ASSUME THAT SOMEONE WHO STOOD TO GAIN FROM THOSE DEATHS WOULD BE INVOLVED?


AUNT EVA'S LOGIC IS PRETTY HARSH, BUT IT CERTAINLY SEEMS THE MOST OBVIOUS FROM AN OBJECTIVE STANDPOINT.
BASED ON THE SHUTTER KEY ALONE, ANYONE WOULD BE SUSPICIOUS OF THE SERVANTS...
THE SERVANTS AND SOMEONE GIVING THEM ORDERS...


...THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT IT.
.....
JUST TALKING TO MYSELF! HEE-HEE-HEE!
PAR-DON?
...A LOGICAL CONCLUSION ANYONE COULD ARRIVE AT.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT IT...


IF THE SERVANTS REALLY COMMITTED THESE MURDERS, THEY WOULDN'T HIDE THE BODIES IN A PLACE TIED TO THEM... IN A PLACE THAT WOULD IMPLICITLY SUGGEST THEIR INVOLVEMENT.
WOULD THEY PURPOSEFULLY PLACE THEM IN THE STORAGE SHED TO THROW OFF THAT REASONING? NO THERE'S NO MERIT TO THAT IDEA.
IF YOU WERE TO FLIP OVER THE CHESS-BOARD AND THINK AGAIN... IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THE SERVANTS...
IF ALL OF THE SERVANTS WERE IN ON IT, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE BODIES OF SHANNON-CHAN AND GOUDA-SAN?


IT MAKES MORE SENSE THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAD SET IT UP IN SUCH A WAY TO SUGGEST THAT THE SERVANTS WERE GUILTY
THE MORE YOU TRY TO PROVE THE SERVANTS GUILT, THE LESS THEIR ACTIONS MAKE SENSE


...BUT WHAT ABOUT THE INTEREST TO BE GAINED? THE MOTIVE?
PLUS, THE MATTER OF THE KEY MAY CAST SUSPICION ON THE SERVANTS...
WHO GAINS THE MOST FROM THESE MURDERS!?
IT'S ME.
I STAND TO GAIN THE MOST.
.....!

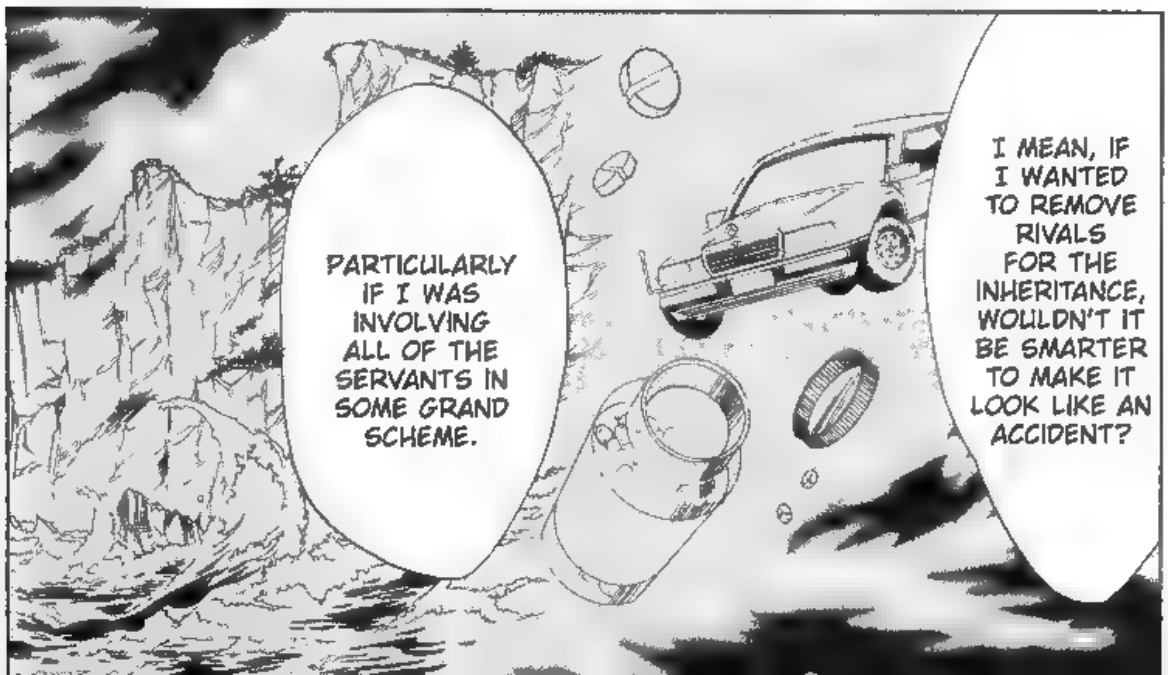

NOW THAT MY SIBLINGS ARE DEAD, I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH ANY CLAIM TO FATHER'S INHERITANCE... AND NOW THE ENTIRE USHIROMIYA FORTUNE BELONGS TO ME. U-FU-FU-FU-FU-FU.
WELL? DID I MANAGE TO GUESS WHAT YOU WERE THINKING?


...THAT'S NOT FUNNY, AUNT EVA...


YOU THINK WHO-EVER'S BEHIND IT WAS TRYING TO FRAME YOU...?
IN FACT... LOOKING AT THE DETAILS OF THIS MURDER, IT ALMOST SEEMS AS THOUGH IT WAS CARRIED OUT SPECIFICALLY TO CAST DOUBT ON ME.
SORRY, HONEY. I WAS JUST FOOLING AROUND AS I'M BOUND TO BE SUSPECTED ANYWAY.


...OUR DISCUSSION OF THE INHERITANCE LASTED UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT...
AS YOU KNOW...
GISHI (CREAK)
CAN I ASK YOUR ALIBI FOR LAST NIGHT?
AND CAN ANY-ONE OTHER THAN UNCLE HIDEYOSHI CONFIRM THIS?
BUT I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW LONG IT WENT.
MY HUSBAND AND I NEEDED TO RISE EARLY. OUR FATIGUE HAD GOTTEN TO US, AND WE HAD TO BOW OUT AFTER MIDNIGHT.
GENJI-SAN GREETED US AS WE RETURNED TO THE GUEST-HOUSE. HE CAN TELL YOU THAT WE SHOWED UP AFTER MIDNIGHT.
OF COURSE, IF ALL THE SERVANTS ARE WORKING TOGETHER, AS I SUSPECT, THAT WON'T BE MUCH OF AN ALIBI.


GOOD POINT!
HEE HEE HEE...
WOULDN'T THAT MEAN I'M JUST ENGAGING IN A BATTLE OF WITS WITH THE REAL KILLER RIGHT NOW?
LET ME JUST SAY, FOR THE SAKE OF MY HONOR... IF I WANTED THE INHERITANCE, I WOULDN'T COMMIT SUCH DISTURBING, TASTELESS MURDERS.

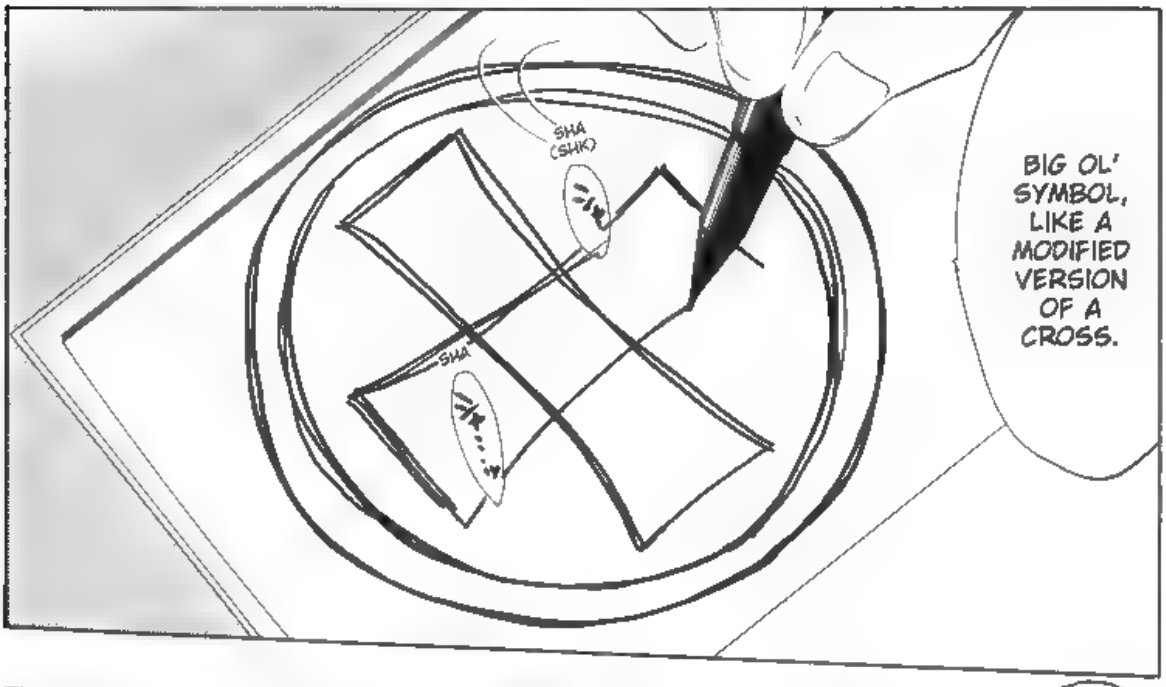

I MEAN, IF I WANTED TO REMOVE RIVALS FOR THE INHERITANCE, WOULDN'T IT BE SMARTER TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT?
PARTICULARLY IF I WAS INVOLVING ALL OF THE SERVANTS IN SOME GRAND SCHEME.

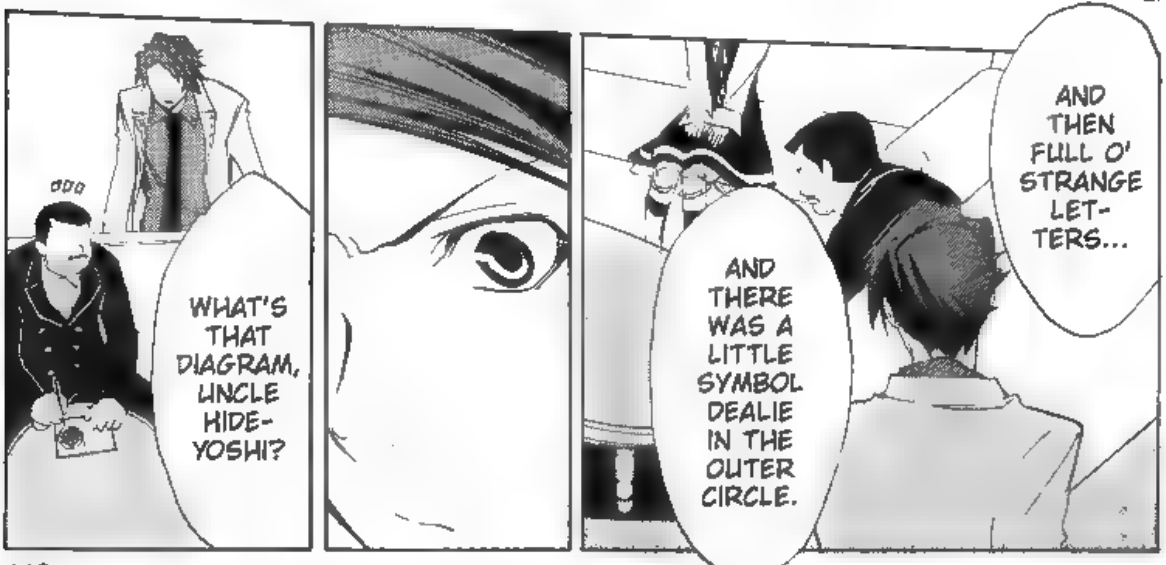

GOOD POINT...
IF YOU WERE KILLING SOMEONE FOR PROFIT, YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A MURDER...
THAT'S JUST WHAT HAS YOUR DEAR AUNT SO DOWN AT THE MOMENT.
SIGH...
NOW THE POLICE WILL FINGER ME AS SOME KIND OF CONSPIRACY MASTERMIND AND TEAR THROUGH MY BACKGROUND... OH, I CAN SEE IT NOW...
HITA (TOUCH)
GI (CREAK)


IT'S JUST AS RATIONAL TO SUSPECT AUNT EVA...
...AS IT IS TO SUSPECT THE SERVANTS.

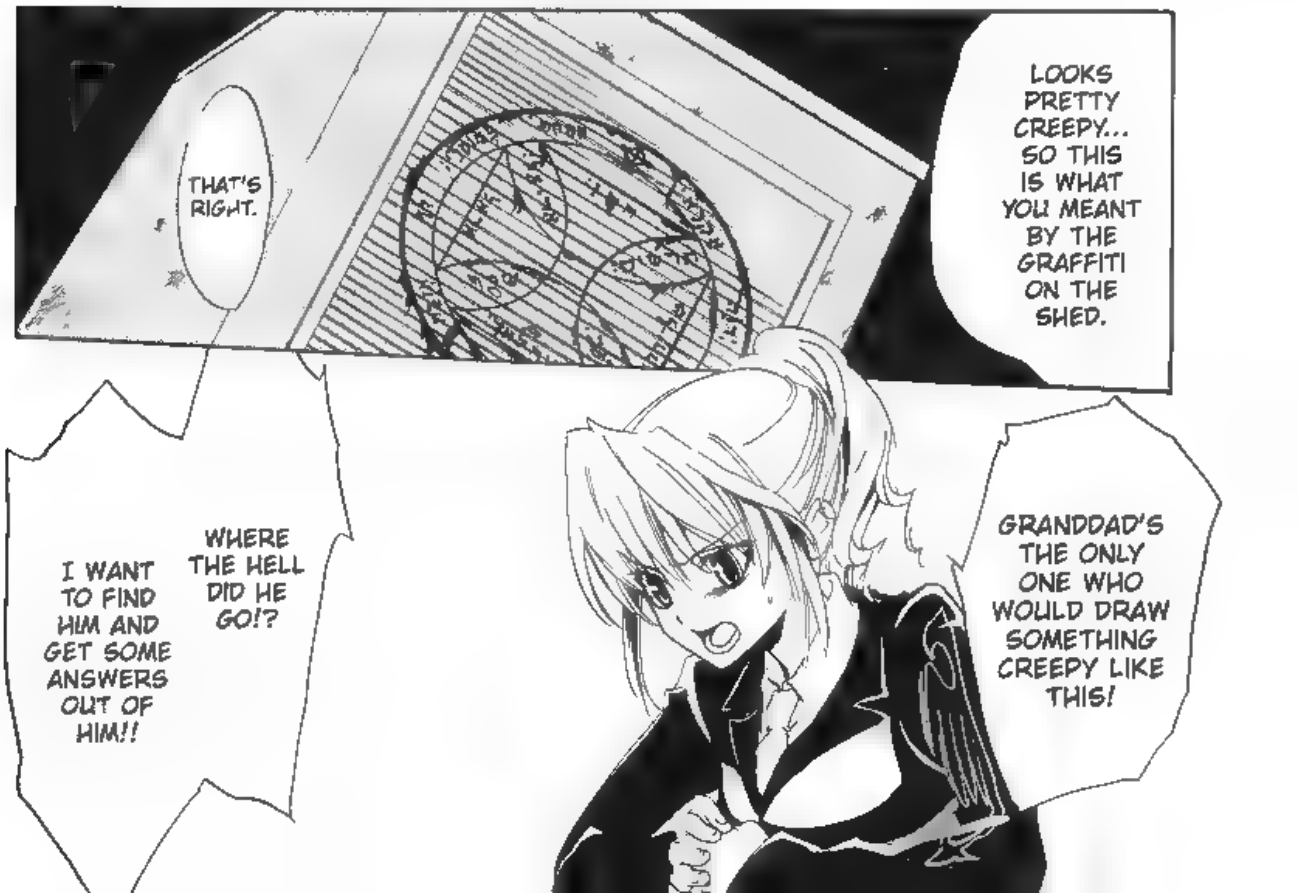

SO...IF YOU FLIP OVER THE CHESSBOARD, IS AUNT EVA ACTUALLY INNOCENT...?
NO... KNOWING THE MOTIVE IS A POWERFUL TOOL IN UNDERSTANDING THE KILLER.
THAT'S WHY MURDERERS TRY TO DRESS UP CASES TO BE MORE COMPLICATED IN ORDER TO HIDE THEIR TRUE REASONS...!
...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THE PROBLEM IS, IF YOU COULD ACTUALLY PROVE ANYTHING BY THAT REASONING, THEN THERE'D BE NO POINT IN MAKING A CASE BASED ON MOTIVE.
EVERY TIME I FLIP OVER THE CHESSBOARD, THE OVERT AND THE HIDDEN CHANGE PLACES...
AM I ACTUALLY GETTING CLOSER TO THE TRUTH?
OR...


HMM... I THINK IT WAS LIKE THIS!


SHA (SHIK)
SHA
BIG OL' SYMBOL, LIKE A MODIFIED VERSION OF A CROSS.


WHAT'S THAT DIAGRAM, UNCLE HIDE-YOSHI?
AND THERE WAS A LITTLE SYMBOL DEALIE IN THE OUTER CIRCLE.
AND THEN FULL O' STRANGE LET-TERS...

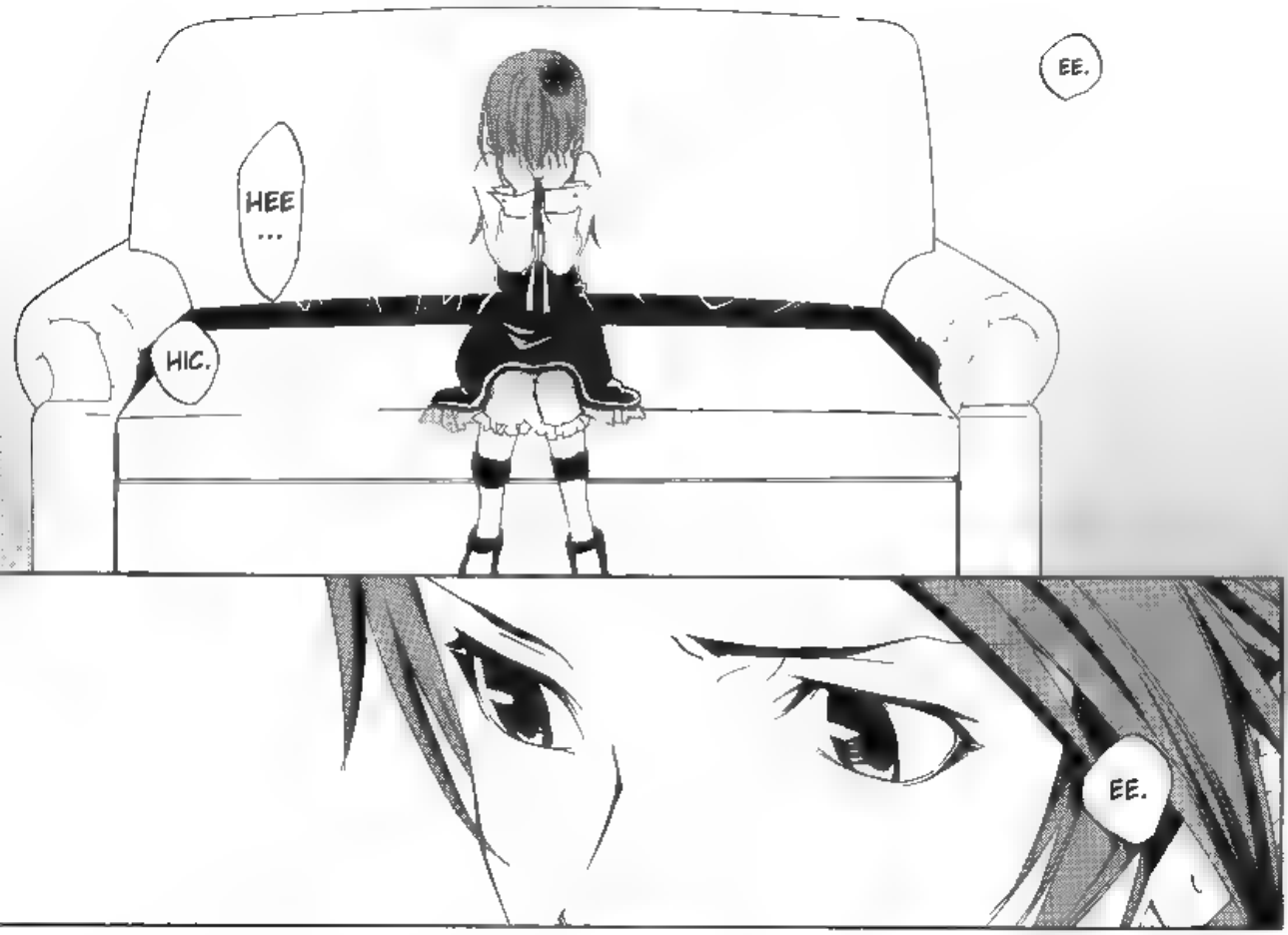

OH, I SUPPOSE YOU DIDN'T SEE IT.
THIS STRANGE MAGIC-CIRCLE-LOOKIN' THING WAS PAINTED ON THE STORAGE SHED SHUTTER WITH RED PAINT OR SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT.
THE STORAGE SHED SHUTTER ...!?


THAT'S RIGHT.
LOOKS PRETTY CREEPY... SO THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT BY THE GRAFFITI ON THE SHED.
GRANDDAD'S THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD DRAW SOMETHING CREEPY LIKE THIS!
WHERE THE HELL DID HE GO!?
I WANT TO FIND HIM AND GET SOME ANSWERS OUT OF HIM!!


JESSICA'S RIGHT. USHIROMIYA PLUS OCCULT EQUALS GRANDDAD.
DOES THAT MEAN THIS WAS A MESSAGE TO GRANDDAD!?
AND NOBODY WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCCULT ARTS WOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT SYMBOL MEANS...
OR DID HE CHOOSE TO VANISH... BECAUSE HE SAW THE MESSAGE?


...MARIA-CHAN KNOWS A FAIR BIT ABOUT OCCULT SUBJECTS.
CAN YOU THINK OF ANY-THING...?


JI (STARE)
IT REMINDS ME A BIT OF THE GERMAN IRON CROSS...
AND THE IRON CROSS WAS ORIGINALLY A SYMBOL OF KNIGHTHOOD MEANT TO PROTECT THOSE ON PILGRIMAGES TO THE HOLY LAND.
DOES THAT MEAN... THAT MAGIC CIRCLE HAS SOME KINDA RELIGIOUS MEANING?
HIC.


EE.
HEE...
HIC.
EE.


EE.
HEE.
SU (SSU)
NOW THAT TIME HAS PASSED... MAYBE THE SHOCK OF AUNT ROSA'S DEATH HAS FINALLY HIT HER...
KKH.
BURU (SHIVER)
BURU...
IS SHE CRYING...?


BRAC
CRUNCH
MARIA...


KEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!


KEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE HEE!
M... MARI... A...?
MARIA ...!?
IS THAT REALLY MARIA ...!?
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE! HEE!
ZO (SHIVER)
KEE HEE HEE HEE!


KEE HEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
YOU'RE ALL WRONG.
KEE HEE!
CAN'T YOU TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT IT? KEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!




GARI (SCRIBBLE)
PASHI (SNATCH)
BA (WHIP)
GARI
THIS IS THE SEVENTH PENTACLE OF THE SUN.
THE LETTERS ARE HEBREW.
ON THE ARMS OF THE CROSS ARE THE NAMES OF THE ANGELS THAT GOVERN THE ELEMENTS OF WIND, FIRE, WATER, AND EARTH: CHASAN, AREL, PHORLAKH, AND TALIAHAD. IN THE DIAGONALS BETWEEN THE FOUR ARMS ARE THE FOUR KINGS WHO RULE THOSE ELEMENTS: ARIEL, SERAPH, THARSHIS, AND CHERUB.


TH-THAT'S IT, ALL RIGHT... THAT'S THE STUFF THAT WAS WRITTEN ON IT...
BUT HOW D'YOU KNOW ALL THAT ...?
...IS THAT RIGHT?
BA SWISH
...DON'T YOU EVER READ THE BIBLE?
PLUS, PSALM 116:16-17 FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN INSIDE THE OUTER CIRCLE.
GAH (SCRIBBLE)
GARI
GAR


IT BORROWS THE POWER OF THE SUN.
WHOSOEVER CASTS ITS LIKENESS IN GOLD AND WEARS IT AS A CHARM WILL BE GIVEN THE POWER TO ESCAPE ANY PRISON, EVADE ANY SHACKLE.
THIS IS... QUITE IMPRES-SIVE, MARIA-CHAN...
AND... WHAT DOES THIS PENTACLE ACTUALLY MEAN?
IT'S OFTEN INTERPRETED THAT THIS DOES NOT EXCLUSIVELY REFER TO PHYSICAL BONDS.
IT ALSO FREES THE WIELDER FROM MENTAL FETTERS, SUCH AS PERSONAL CONSTRAINTS AND INESCAPABLE FATE.


IT FREES YOU FROM MENTAL FETTERS... INESCAPABLE FATE?
BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE SIX BODIES?
THEY WEREN'T FREED— THEY WERE MURDERED AND LOCKED UP IN A SHED!
THE PENTACLE WASN'T DRAWN FOR THEIR SAKE.
THE SIX BODIES WERE THERE FOR THE SAKE OF THE PENTACLE.
SUCH A SHAME. KEE HEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
CAN'T YOU READ IT?
SHOULD I READ IT FOR YOU?
TSU.. (TRACE)
LOOK, IT'S WRITTEN RIGHT HERE. PSALM 116:16-17.
.....?


"THOU HAST LOOSED MY BONDS.
...SIR?
"I WILL OFFER TO THEE THE SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING, AND WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD."


YOU MEAN THE SIX...WERE SACRIFICES?



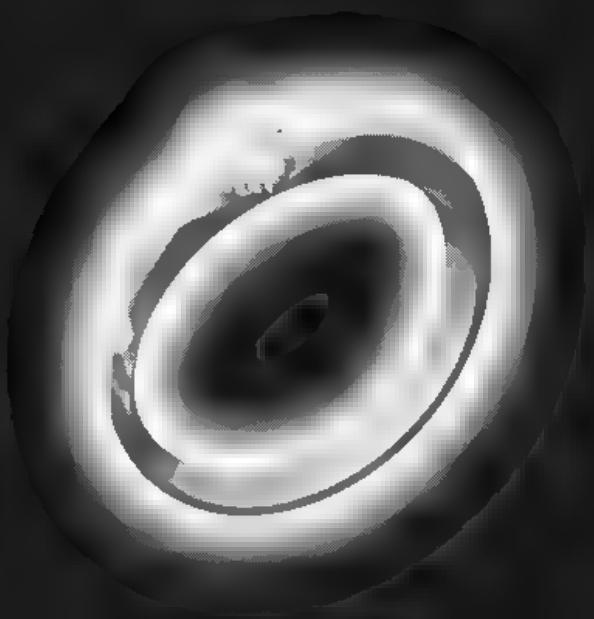

NIKO GRIND
ニィ…
…!!!
THEY WERE... SACRI-FICES!?


I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF MAGIC CIRCLE OR RITUALS OR WHATEVER YOU BELIEVE IN...
...I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THIS... I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!!
YOU MEAN OUR PARENTS WERE KILLED TO BE SACRIFICES FOR THAT UTTER BULLSHIT!?
KEE HEE HEE HEE! IT'S NOT BULLSHIT.
THEY'RE VERY IMPORTANT SACRIFICES FOR THE WITCH.


KEE HEE!
BAT-TLER.
BEATRICE IS REAL, YOU SEE?
KEE HEE!
.....
KEE HEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE!
HEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
PENTACLE SACRIFICES THIS WITCHES THAT WHAT THE HELL IS GOING
IT WAS BETTER WHEN I WAS JUST SICK TO MY STOMACH ABOUT THIS BEING RELATED TO THE INHERITANCE
EVER SINCE MARIA READ THAT LETTER FROM THE WITCH LAST NIGHT...
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
HEE HEE!
GYU! (SQUEEZE)
KEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
...SOME-THING'S GONE COMPLETELY MAD...


FROM THAT MOMENT ON... IT FEELS LIKE THE ENTIRETY OF ROKKENJIMA HAS BEEN SUCKED INTO SOME BIZARRE OTHER WORLD WITH US STUCK ON IT...
ISOLATED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD BY THE TYPHOON, WE ARE TRAPPED IN OUR OWN LITTLE DIMENSION.
AND DID THE RULER OF THE NIGHT ON THIS ISLAND LURE US HERE WITH HER WITCH'S LETTER...?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO THINK!!?
THE LETTER... THE SACRIFICES... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT!?
IS THE WITCH REAL? IS THIS ALL ACTUALLY HER DOING!?


KEE
HEE
HEE
HEE
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HEE!
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Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch


OUR PHONES AND WIRELESS RADIO ARE DOWN.
THIS ISLAND IS NOW ITS OWN ISOLATED WORLD, CUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE...
WHAT'S NEXT?
ARE A BUNCH OF CULTISTS WEARING GOAT MASKS GOING TO COME OUT AND DO A RITUAL DANCE
NOW WITCHES SENDING LETTERS AND PENTACLES WITH HUMAN SACRIFICES ARE AN ORDINARY FACT OF LIFE HERE
HEE HEE!
HEE HEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE!
KEE HEE HEE!
HEE HEE!
IS THERE A WITCH? OR NOT? IS THE KILLER ONE OF US? OR NOT? WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO THINK!?
NO GOOD, NO GOOD. I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT!



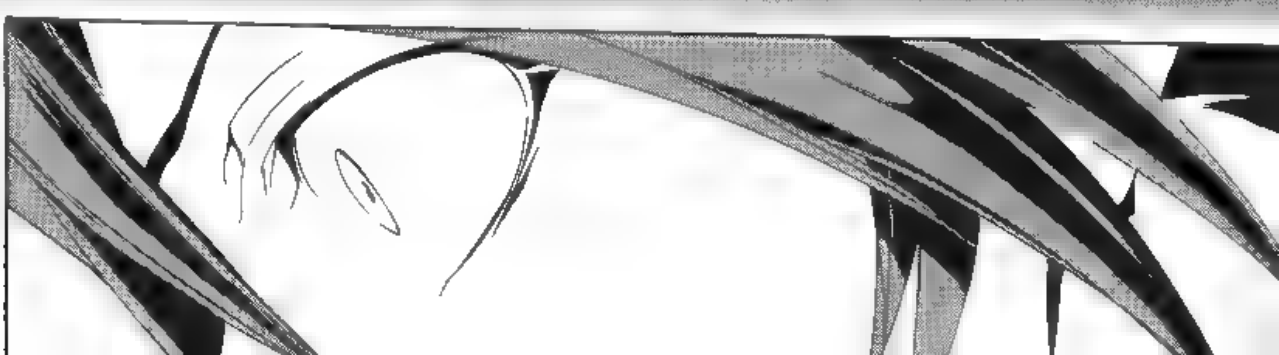
# Chapter 10: Witch without a Form

AAH...
AAAH... WAAAHH...
ZAAAA (FSSHHH)
AAAAA


HA HA HA HA HA!
WHAT'S WRONG, BATTLER? ARE YOU SCARED BY THIS OCCULT HORROR MOVIE!?
IF YOU ASK ME, TELEPHONE SURVEYS AND UNHAPPY WIVES ARE A HUNDRED MILLION TIMES SCARIER THAN THE DEVIL!


THINK, BATTLER. WHY DO THEY MAKE MOVIES ABOUT SPOOKY MONSTERS AND STUFF?


...IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT REAL.
THEY DON'T EXIST, SO WE WANT TO SEE WHAT IT'D BE LIKE IF THEY WERE REAL.
ALL THOSE DEMONS AND MAGIC SPELLS ARE ILLUSIONS MADE UP BY PEOPLE WHO ARE BORED OF THE NORMAL WORLD AND WANT TO BE SCARED BY THINGS FROM AN IMAGINARY ONE.




LISTEN, BATTLER-KUN.
IN CHESS AND SHOGI, THE CLOSER YOU GET TO THE END-GAME, THE FEWER CHOICES YOU HAVE FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE MOVE.
IT BECOMES FAR EASIER TO READ THE MOVES OF YOUR OPPONENT, WHETHER YOU'RE ON THE OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE MOMENT WHEN YOUR BACK IS UP AGAINST THE WALL AND YOU HAVE NO MOVE TO MAKE IS THE EASIEST MOMENT TO READ.
THAT'S WHEN YOU FLIP OVER THE CHESS-BOARD.
PAKI (SNAP)
...SHE'S RIGHT.


THIS IS BULLSHIT. WE'RE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT WITCHES, MAGIC CIRCLES, AND HUMAN SACRI-FICES.
PASH! (SMACK)
ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE HUMAN BEING WHO KILLED OUR PARENTS IS STILL HERE ON THE ISLAND!!
SU (SGK)


KLIK (FLIK)
AND NOW THAT MY BACK IS AGAINST THE WALL AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO THINK...
PAKIN! (SNAP)
...IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO FLIP OVER THE CHESS-BOARD!!


DON'T GO ON THE DEFENSIVE... LOOK AT THIS FROM THE KILLER'S SIDE AND EXPOSE THE PLOT!
MEANING IT WAS A HEAD-ON ASSAULT. HE HAD NO INTENTION OF ESCAPING FROM THE START.
THE KILLER KNEW THAT THE ISLAND WOULD BE CUT OFF BY THE TYPHOON AT THE TIME THE MURDERS WERE COMMITTED...
HE COMMITTED THE MURDERS WITHOUT HAVING AN ESCAPE ROUTE LAID OUT.


I HAVE TO ADMIT, THE KILLER IS PARTICULAR [redacted] DETAILS. MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T GO NEARLY THAT FAR...
THAT WASN'T THE CAUSE OF DEATH. IT WAS PAINSTAKINGLY DONE TO THE FACES OF PEOPLE WHO WERE ALREADY DEAD
SAME WITH THE DAMAGE ON THE CORPSES' FACES.
YOU HAVE TO BE FUCKING KIDDING ME! HOW COULD SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN!?
THE SYMBOL ON THE STOREHOUSE SHUTTER WAS DRAWN IN THE DARK WITH ONE HAND ON AN UMBRELLA... IT MUST HAVE TAKEN A WHILE.


WHICH MEANS THERE MUST BE A MEANING TO THE EFFORT!!


...PREPARED SPECIFICALLY TO BE SHOWN TO US WHEN WE EVENTUALLY DISCOVERED THE STOREHOUSE?
WERE THE FACES OF THE CORPSES AND THE DETAILED PENTACLE DRAWN ON THE SHUTTER


WHAT ABOUT THE MUTILATED FACES?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A MESSAGE MEANT TO FRIGHTEN US TO SAY, "LOOK HOW HORRIBLY I DISFIGURED THESE CORPSES!"
WHAT SORT OF REACTION WAS THE KILLER EXPECTING...
...BY SHOWING US HIS HANDIWORK?

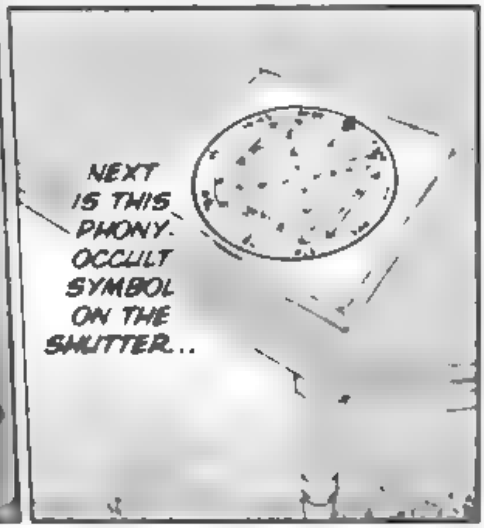


MARIA HERSELF TOLD US THIS IS A SERIOUS MAGIC CIRCLE.



DOES THAT MEAN THAT THIS WAS MEANT TO BE SHOWN TO SOMEONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCCULT?

ITS MEANING IS BEYOND THE UNDERSTANDING OF NORMAL PEOPLE LIKE...



NEXT IS THIS PHONY OCCULT SYMBOL ON THE SHUTTER...



IF ANY USHIROMIYA KNOWS ABOUT THE OCCULT...

...IT'S GRANDDAD...


I DON'T KNOW HOW GRANDDAD HAPPENED TO SEE THE PENTACLE...
BUT I GUESS HIS REACTION WAS THIS "DISAPPEARANCE"?
OR...
...IS IT A TRAP MEANT TO IMPLICATE GRANDDAD'S PARTICIPATION IN ALL OF THIS...?
TCH!
I DON'T LIKE IT.
WHAT ARE THEY HOPING TO GET OUT OF THIS, FORCING US TO DISSECT THESE WITCH'S LETTERS AND MAGIC CIRCLES AND MYSTICAL CRAP?


AND NOW...
...A BATTLE OF WITS WITH KINZOU-SAMA TONIGHT.
...ENJOY...
.....


IT'S A BATTLE OF WITS BETWEEN US AND THE WITCH.
SOUNDS GREAT.
WHICH WILL COME FIRST—WILL YOU SWALLOW US UP IN YOUR DARK MAGIC GAME, OR WILL WE PEEL BACK THE VEIL ON YOUR SCHEME?
WE'VE GOT AN ENTIRE DAY TO ENJOY THIS COMPETITION... BEFORE THE STORM PASSES!!

AH...
THAT'LL BE AUNT NATSUHI'S GROUP RETURNING FROM THEIR PATROL...
GACHA (CLICK)
!!!?




A...
AUNT NATSUHI ...!?
A GUN!?
WHY IS AUNT NATSUHI CARRYING A GUN!?
IT CAN'T BE.
WE'RE PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT MULTIPLE KILLERS WHO WERE AMPLY ARMED.
IT CAN'T BE!
WERE OUR PARENTS KILLED BY...?


OH, IT'S JUST FOR PROTEC-TION...
WHEW...
I HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT THE GUESTS OF THE HOUSE IN MY HUSBAND'S STEAD.
I PULLED THIS OUT OF FATHER'S OLD COLLECTION, JUST IN CASE WE NEED IT.
PARDON ME FOR STAR-TLING YOU.
CHA (CHIK)


WOW... I DIDN'T KNOW GRAND-DAD HAD SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
YES, IT IS. IT FIRES ACTUAL BULLETS.
IS THAT GUN... REAL?


OH, I REMEMBER THAT ONE. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I BEGGED, FATHER WOULD NEVER LET ME TOUCH IT.
FATHER WAS OVER THE MOON FOR WESTERNS IN THOSE DAYS.
HE COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF THOSE RIFLES.




Ho Ho Ho!
OH, HOW HE USED TO TAKE IT INTO THE FOREST OUT BACK AND PRETEND HE WAS SO DASHING!
THE MASTER HAD THAT GUN IMPORTED FROM AMERICA QUITE A LONG TIME AGO... IT IS A REAL GUN, SO PLEASE KEEP ITS EXISTENCE UNDER DISCRETION.


IS THAT A WIN-CHESTER? I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THAT SHORT.
IT'S THE KIND THE MAIN CHARACTER USED IN THAT SHOW *WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE!*


I WAS NOT ABLE TO FIND FATHER, THOUGH I DID SEE TO IT THAT THE DOORS WERE SECURELY LOCKED...
GASHA (KCHAK)
I BELIEVE WE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER IN HERE FOR SAFETY'S SAKE.
OH YES. WITH EVERYONE IN THE SAME ROOM, WE CAN ALL KEEP EACH OTHER UNDER OBSERVATION.


...AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, EVA-SAN?
NOTHING? I WAS ONLY AGREEING WITH YOUR OPINION, NATSUHI-NEESAN.
AUNT NATSUHI SUSPECTS AN OUTSIDER AND AUNT EVA AN INSIDER...


SIX ARE DEAD, AND GRANDDAD IS MISSING... WHICH LEAVES ELEVEN...
...ALL HERE IN THIS ROOM.
IF THERE IS A NINETEENTH... IF BEATRICE EXISTS...
...THEN I WON'T HAVE TO SUSPECT MY OWN RELATIVES.
BUT IF I'M SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW COMMON SENSE AND DENY THAT POSSIBILITY...
HELL, NO! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS WITCHES!
DID A WITCH DRAW A MAGIC CIRCLE AND OFFER SACRIFICES?


...THEN THE KILLER IS ONE OF US...


KACHI
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI (TICK)
KACHI
BYUU (WHOOSH)
...JUST WASH-ING MY HANDS.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, BATTLER-KUN? IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE ALONE.
SOMEONE MUST ACCOMPANY YOU.
GU (GRIP)
...AND THE AIR'S STARTING TO GET STALE...
IT'S BEEN FOUR HOURS SINCE THE ENTIRE GROUP PACKED INTO THE GUEST ROOM...
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI


...WOULD HAPPEN... TO... SHANNON...
KUMASAWA-SAN AND THE OTHERS WILL BE CLEANING UP AFTER LUNCH.
I'LL GET SOME WATER FROM THE KITCHEN.
TEK
WHY WOULD BEATRICE-SAMA CHOOSE SHANNON ...?
IF SHE WANTED SACRIFICES, THERE WERE PLENTY OF OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM! SO WHY...?


FORGET ABOUT THE WAY SHE DIED...
I WISH I COULD SEE HER SMILE ONE MORE TIME...
...POOR, POOR SHANNON-CHAN...
ZABU (SLOSH)
ZABU


...GENJI-SAMA, YOU SAID THAT THERE WERE MARKS OF SOMETHING THAT LOOKED LIKE BLOOD ON THE MADAM'S DOOR...?
YES... THEY WERE MOST UN-SETTLING.
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO FATE.
IF FATE HAD BEEN A BIT DIFFERENT, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ME IN HER PLACE OR YOU... OR SOMEONE ELSE IN THE MANOR.
...SHE SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE LUCK ON HER SIDE.
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT BEATRICE-SAMA PAID THE MISTRESS'S ROOM A VISIT...AND TRIED AND FAILED TO OPEN THE DOOR...
IT WAS AS THOUGH BLOODY FINGERS HAD BEEN SCRABBLING AT THE DOORKNOB... AS IF TRYING TO RIP THROUGH THE DOOR ITSELF.
HOW...
...DID THE MISTRESS ESCAPE BEING A SACRIFICE?


IF SHE HAD BEEN CHOSEN, SHANNON WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DIE—
KON (KNOCK)
B...
BAT-TLER-SAMA.
THIS SOUNDS INTERESTING.
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU GUYS KNOW ABOUT THIS WHOLE BUSINESS?

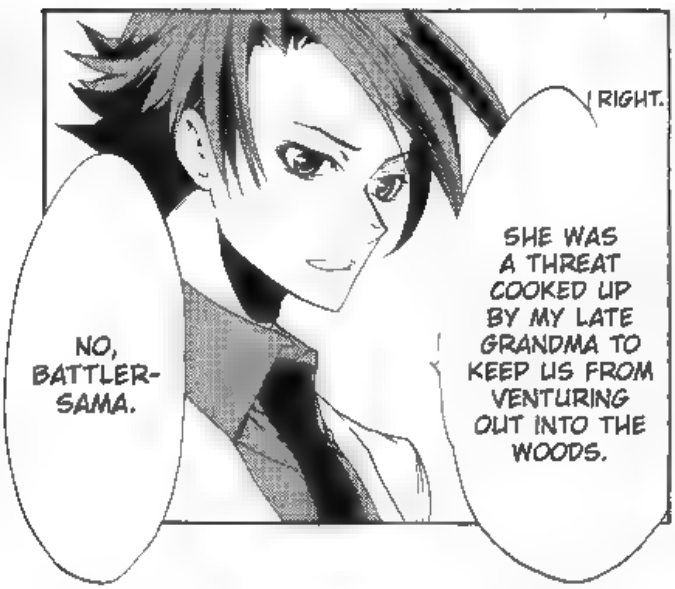

...
FUI (TURN)
..
GU (YANK)
WHO IS THIS BEATRICE?
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SHE'S JUST A WITCH OUT OF SOME FAIRY TALE.
YES, I WAS AN OUT-SIDER UNTIL LAST NIGHT.
BUT MY FAMILY HAS BEEN KILLED. THAT MAKES ME AS INVOLVED AS ANYONE IN THIS CASE.
I THINK I HAVE A RIGHT TO HEAR ABOUT THIS FISHY DISCUSSION, DON'T YOU?


.....


...VERY WELL. ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN...




BEATRICE-SAMA... IS A WITCH THAT LIVES IN THE FOREST OF ROKKEN-JIMA.


NO, BATTLER-SAMA.
SHE WAS A THREAT COOKED UP BY MY LATE GRANDMA TO KEEP US FROM VENTURING OUT INTO THE WOODS.
I RIGHT.


BEATRICE-SAMA IS REAL.
SHE IS A REAL PERSON WHO GAVE THE MASTER AN ENORMOUS PILE OF GOLD AND SERVED AT HIS SIDE FOR MANY YEARS.
...HUH?


.....
HA HA HA...
KNOCK IT OFF...
IS PASSING ON GRAND-DAD'S TALL TALES PART OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION HERE?


YES. SHE HAS SERVED SINCE LONG BEFORE THE MASTER BUILT THE MANSION ON THIS ISLAND.
PROBABLY LONGER THAN I HAVE BEEN HERE.
...ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
SO THIS PERSON NAMED BEATRICE IS REAL?
...THIS IS CRAZY.


SO KYRIE-SAN'S HY-POTHESIS WAS OFF...
SO GRANDDAD HAS A SECRET EMPLOYEE NAMED BEATRICE, AND SHE'S HERE ON THE ISLAND?
...YES, I BELIEVE SHE IS.
.....THAT'S A PRETTY VAGUE STATEMENT. SO YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER FACE THESE PAST TWO DAYS, I TAKE IT?
...NO. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO ADMIT, BUT...I...
HO-HO-HO...
WE CANNOT SEE HER FACE... FOR BEATRICE-SAMA HAS NO FORM...
EH?
COME ON, DON'T STOP THERE.


FORM...? WHAT?
.....
BEATRICE-SAMA SOMETIMES MANIFESTS IN THE FORM OF A SHINING BUTTERFLY, BUT TO FOLLOW HER IS TO KNOW CERTAIN MISFORTUNE.
THERE WAS A SERVANT WHO BROKE THIS RULE AND WAS TERRIBLY INJURED AND QUIT.
THE ONLY IMAGE OF BEATRICE-SAMA AS SHE WAS WHEN SHE TOOK HUMAN FORM IS CAPTURED IN THAT PORTRAIT...
BEATRICE-SAMA HAS NO BODY.
THEREFORE, WE ORDINARY PEOPLE CANNOT EVEN SEE HER UNLESS SHE WISHES IT.


HOLD ON...
ARE YOU GUYS BEING SERIOUS ABOUT THAT GARBAGE...?
BEATRICE-SAMA IS ALREADY HERE, BATTLER-SAMA.
IT WILL NOT DO TO SPEAK IN SUCH A MANNER.
BEATRICE-SAMA DOES NOT LOOK KINDLY UPON THOSE WHO BLASPHEME HER.
IF YOU DOUBT HER EXISTENCE, YOU WILL BE STRUCK WITH GREAT TRIBULATION.


NO DOUBT YOU FIND THIS TOPIC RATHER UNPLEASANT.
BUT...
DOKUN (BADUM)
BEATRICE IS REAL, YOU SEE?
...BEATRICE-SAMA IS REAL, YOU SEE?
EVEN KUMASAWA-SAN...IS REPEATING THE SAME LINE AS MARIA?
SHE IS REAL.
DOUBTING HER EXISTENCE IS AN ACT BEATRICE-SAMA DESPISES ABOVE ALL ELSE.
DOKU
DOKUN


DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND, BATTLER-SAMA?
BEATRICE-SAMA IS ALREADY...
...HERE ON THE ISLAND.
DO (B-BUMP)
SHE'S, HERE?
YOU MEAN, RIGHT NOW? BEATRICE IS...?
S... STOP IT.
BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
ARE YOU SAYING SHE'S, LIKE, STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO ME?
COME ON... STOP TRYING TO SCARE ME...




UMINEKO WHEN THEY CRY: Episode 1 ❶ END


Umineko
WHEN THEY CRY
Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch




# UMINEKO WHEN THEY CRY COLLAGE THEATER

# LAST WORDS.



YOU'RE TOO FAT, GEORGE-SAN.

AND THIS IS AFTER... I ALREADY WENT ON A DIET...





BEHIND YOU, SHANNON!!

## THE AP-PROACH-ING HAND OF EVIL

# EXTORTION I




# EXTORTION II




COUNT-DOWN TO HYPER
IT SAYS THE ONE YOU HAVE WAITED FOR IS COMING.
KEE HEE HEE.
YOUR HOROSCOPE SAYS YOU WILL HAVE EXCELLENT LUCK WITH ROMANCE.
OH MY GOD, ARE YOU SERI-OUS!!?
BEATRIIIICE!
I HAVE TO GET ALL DANDIED UP IN MY BEST OUTFIT BEFORE I LEAVE!!!
AND THEN KIN-CHAN WENT MISSING...


HELLO AGAIN. I'M KEI NATSUMI. HOW ARE YOU LIKING EPISODE 1 OF UMINEKO WHEN THEY CRY? THE SLAUGHTER OF THE FIRST NIGHT HAS FINALLY HAPPENED. I'M REALLY SAD THAT THERE ARE ALREADY SIX CHARACTERS I'LL NEVER GET TO DRAW AGAIN. HOW MANY ARE GOING TO DIE IN THE NEXT VOLUME? I HOPE I SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME.
Special Thanks
HINATA, RODRIGUEZ NAGAI, SUZUKA ASAMINE, WAON PEKO, MAI HORIUCHI, RIN "TOMISHO" KUROKI, SAYURI "AKKIRI" AKIYAMA, HAKO ITAGAKI, HIROKO WATANABE, MIDORI IMAI,
& You

# TRANSLATION NOTES, PART 2

PAGE 277

**"Sound" kanji:** As you may have noticed, the pattern among the names mentioned is the ending "-non." This comes from the Chinese character (*kanji*) for "sound." All the names with the "-non" pattern are made of two kanji. Shannon's first kanji means "gauze," Kanon's first kanji means "esteem" or "approval," Renon's first kanji means "love," and Manon's first kanji is "truth."

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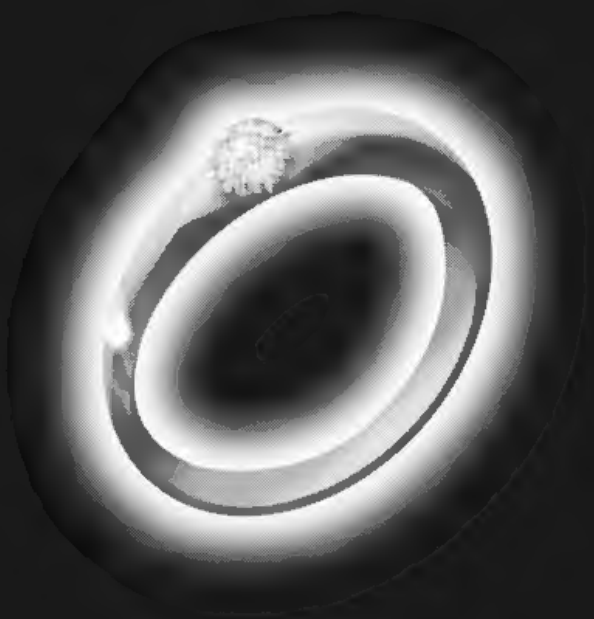
**Sayo:** The kanji for Sayo starts with the same character that starts Shannon, which may suggest how Shannon received her servant name.

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**Seventh pentacle of the sun:** This symbol comes from the *Key of Solomon*, a grimoire of magic attributed to Solomon, king of Israel. However, it most likely dates from the Renaissance, in which books of magic based on Kabbalism and astrology were popular.

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***Wanted: Dead or Alive*:** A TV western starring Steve McQueen that ran from 1958 to 1961. It helped launch McQueen's eventual career as a dashing film star. The custom shortened Winchester rifle used by his character, Josh Randall, was known as "Mare's Leg" within the show, and that model was later known as a "Winchester Randall." Note that possession of guns in Japan by a civilian is illegal.



# UMINEKO
# WHEN THEY CRY
## Episode 1: Legend of the Golden Witch ①

RYUKISHI07
Kei Natsumi

Translation: Stephen Paul

Lettering: Jennifer Skarupa

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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